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Thursday April 11 1996

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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Ian Katz on the new creationists

## Was Darwin wrong?

G2 with European weather



Jeffrey's got a brand new book

## The first hype of spring

Joanna Coles, G2 page 7



OnLine

## Fire escape Ways to beat a blaze

G2 pages 10/11

Report on standards will call for government appointees to work for nothing and demand tighter controls to avoid conflicts of interest

# Nolan: End quango scandal

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

**L**ORD NOLAN is to propose dramatic changes to the controversial quango system by calling for an end to payments for those sitting on the public bodies, the Guardian has learned.

He will say the whole basis of quangos, which have mushroomed under John Major's government, should be reviewed and that people should serve out of a sense of duty rather than financial gain.

Guardian inquiries have also revealed the extent of payments to quango members, which include a £4,000-a-day fee to the chairman of the Port of London Authority and £1,500 a day to the chairman of the Dover Harbour Board.

Lord Nolan's report on standards in public life examining local quangos, which will come out next month, will oppose all payments for appointees on a wide range of education, training and housing bodies. Members should be attracted by the desire to perform public service rather than by money, it will say. Such a principle should become the mainstay of government policy.

It will also call for tighter controls over potential conflicts of interest among people appointed to serve on Training and Enterprise Councils, grant-maintained schools, further education colleges and housing associations.

By drawing such a firm line against extending payments to new quangos, Lord Nolan is certain to re-open the question of why large salaries are paid to board members on NHS trusts, Housing Action Trusts, the Funding Agency for Grant Maintained Schools, and the funding councils for further and higher education.

Among the most dramatic payments uncovered by the Guardian in ministerial annual reports quango members are £4,000 a day for 12 days' work a year for Sir Brian Shaw to chair the Port of London Authority. John Maltby, a businessman who chairs the Dover Harbour Board, receives £1,500 a day for 10 days work a year.

Other recipients include Lord De Ramsay, a Conservative landowner from Huntingdon, appointed by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, as chairman of the new Environment Agency on a £50,000-a-year salary for a two-day week. Conservative



Sir Brian Shaw, chairman of Port of London Authority, has spent much of his life in shipping

## Quango kings

SIR Brian Shaw, aged 63, is chairman of the Port of London Authority on a salary of £50,000 a year. He was appointed by the Transport Secretary on a three-year contract in 1993. The department's records show he is expected to attend 12 meetings a year — a time commitment of 12 days annually — the equivalent of more than £4,000 a day.

He gained an MA at Cambridge, was then called to the Bar and joined Pacific Steam Navigation company in Liverpool in 1957.

He has been a PLA board member since 1987 and is chairman of the AA.

JOHN Newcombe Maltby, aged 67, is chairman of the Dover Harbour Board on salary of £15,000 a year. He was re-appointed chairman last year by the Transport Secretary. The department's records show he is expected to attend 10 meetings a year — a time commitment of 10 days work every 12 months — the equivalent of £1,500 a day.

He had a long career in the oil and shipping industries. Previous employers include Shell and Burmah Oil. He has been a member of the Dover Harbour Board, a quango, since 1989. He is also chairman of the British Ports Federation, a private body.



John Maltby, keen sailor and chairman of Dover Harbour Board

former environment minister Lord Belwin gets £27,880 a year for a two-day week chairing the North Hull Housing Action Trust.

Last night John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, condemned the salaries. "Taxpayers are paying through the nose for people to sit on quangos. Labour will fundamentally reform this system."

Following Lord Nolan's

first report into standards in public life last year ministers are having to revamp procedures for appointments next year to end the perceived bias. They will now come under pressure to review the salaries on offer for the next generation of appointments.

Lord Nolan's new inquiry involved submissions from a range of educational and housing organisations, many making it clear they want to call a halt to the increasingly large payments to people on quangos.

Among the strongest critics are the Training and Enterprise Councils and the Scottish Local Enterprise Councils who have told Lord Nolan they want to remain operating in a similar way to charitable trusts, which ensures no one on their boards is paid.

Even Sir Donald Mackay, the paid chairman of Scottish Enterprise, has told Lord Nolan: "I report to you what the chairs [of Local Enterprise Councils] quite unequivocally said to me — they do not wish to be in a situation where they, or their members are paid. They do this out of a sense of public duty and that is how they wish it to remain."

Similar points have been raised by the National Federation of Housing Associations; the Colleges Employers Forum and grant-maintained schools. At most, further education colleges and grant-maintained schools say self-employed business people or poor people should be reimbursed for loss of income.

Leader comment, page 8

## EU to vet monetary policy

Brussels seeks to avoid conflict on UK single currency opt-out

John Palmer in Brussels

**B**RTAIN will be required to submit details of its monetary policies for European Union scrutiny, even if it decides against joining a single European currency.

The European Commission hopes in this way to avert a potentially explosive confrontation with the Government over pressure for sterling to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism — though the strategy is likely to enrage Eurosceptics concerned about ceding economic sovereignty to Brussels.

The commission yesterday dropped a broad hint that despite such pressures the pound may not have to rejoin

governments insist some extra disciplines on economies outside the monetary union will be necessary to avoid currency upheavals which could undermine the single European market. One possibility would be to pay EU grants in national currencies, to prevent devaluing countries making a profit at the expense of the EU budget.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has always insisted that he gives priority to low inflation, currency stability and economic convergence with the rest of the EU. He has hinted at a willingness to consider new inflation-proof monetary policies to reassure those who doubt the Government's commitment to avoiding competitive devaluations.

Since the currency crisis of September 1992 the Government has, however, ruled out sterling rejoining the ERM. Speaking at a press conference on page 2, column 5

World boxing champion Mike Tyson was last night facing new charges of sexual assault after an incident in a Chicago nightclub, but he is counting on the testimony of his bodyguards to keep him from being sent back to jail for breaking the terms of his probation.

A beauty salon owner, aged 25, from Gary, Indiana, rang Chicago police from hospital where she went for treatment early on Monday morning, complaining that she had been battered and sexually molested by Tyson in a private booth at the Clique nightclub.

"She was visibly shaken, fearful and in some degree of discomfort from the injuries she sustained," said her lawyer, Jerry Petee.

## Tyson accused of sex attack

Martin Walker in Washington

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duced to Tyson and had never been alone with him. "He was constantly surrounded by bodyguards," the nightclub manager, Moody Andrews, said. "No alcohol was involved. Mike Tyson drank nothing but bottled water."

Tyson is on the second of four years of parole after serving three years in prison for rape. Under the terms of his parole, he may not consume alcohol or illegal drugs. Any serious breach would return him automatically to prison.

Chicago police said last night that no charges had yet been filed.

Tyson's companion at the time was former world champion Oliver McCall. In a separate incident in on Tuesday McCall was charged with marijuana possession.

Kevin Mitchell, page 16

## Inside

### Britain

Doctors and drugs relief agencies yesterday rallied to defend a Scottish social worker who said Ecstasy was 'relatively safe'

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Sarajevo buried its most famous lover, a young Serb and his Muslim girlfriend shot three years ago

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### Comment

If ever there was a case that ought to be dealt with by the independent judicial review authority, the Bridgewater case is it, says Jill Morrell

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Big Boys Inc, the power hitters who prosper most at certain holes at Augusta, hold the key to the US Masters golf

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Radio 16; TV 16



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## Self Assessment

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When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

Inland Revenue

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

Rome sketch

Briefs in dock tout for votes



John Hooper

**Y**OU could tell Publio Fiori was a lawyer. He has that way with words.

Mr Fiori is a candidate for Silvio Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance in next week's general election in Italy. He was also one of the distinguished participants at a book launch yesterday in the elaborately corniced and plastered conference room of a hotel within sight of the Pantheon in Rome.

He began, rather unusually, by complimenting the author on his "courage".

The author, Cesare Previti, smiled in a grateful, slightly self-deprecating way. Mr Previti is a fellow Freedom Alliance candidate and a key figure in this campaign.

Soon after the campaign began, Mr Previti was sent for trial on charges of having blackmailed the country's leading anti-corruption prosecutor into quitting. Antonio Di Pietro, the idol of "honest Italy", took off his gown for the last time 17 months ago, days before he was due to interrogate Mr Berlusconi about bribery claims.

Mr Previti is Mr Berlusconi's lawyer, as well as the chairman of his party. Shortly before the campaign began, it emerged that prosecutors were also looking into allegations that he paid one of Rome's most senior judges to decide cases in his client's favour.

And the book? Well, the book is called *A Programme For Justice*, and it consists of Mr Previti's proposals for reforming the legal system.

So you can see what his learned friend meant by "courage". Up to a point.

Few things could better illustrate the degree to which an Italian public life has become divorced from the standards of the rest of Europe than this bizarre event. One had to kick oneself to be sure it was real — that the party with the best

chance of winning next Sunday's election believed it was enhancing its prospects by helping launch a book on how to overhaul the courts by a man who is due to be tried in one of them.

When another speaker said Mr Previti's proposals were "very very detailed", no one ever smiled.

But then, such is the politicisation of the judiciary — several judges are standing in this election — that many Italians are sure the arraignment of Mr Previti is politically motivated. Foremost among them is Mr Previti himself.

The lawyer-turned-politician-turned-author is a slim, wiry man with a toothy smile, silvery hair and an unexpectedly soft handshake. Did he not think the launch of his book might not be a little — how should I put it? — inopportune?

"I find it a bit 'against the rules' that people should be indicted because they are politically committed in a certain direction," he replied. It was indeed odd that so many candidates were in trouble with the law. But he maintained, there were more on the left (under investigation over kickbacks taken by communist co-operatives) than there were on the right.

In any case, this odd situation could hardly be laid at the door of politicians alone, he said. "It is because of those who use the legal process for purposes that go beyond those for which it was intended."

When, earlier this year, Spain's Socialist selected an indicted politician as a candidate, there was outrage. It may have cost them last month's election.

But there is no sign that the arraignment of Mr Previti has damaged Mr Berlusconi, who is himself on trial on the bribery charges about which Mr Di Pietro was to have questioned him. The latest poll showed the Freedom Alliance further ahead than before.

If it wins, and if Mr Berlusconi secures an outright majority, Mr Previti could have the chance to put his ideas into effect. Mr Berlusconi wanted to make him justice minister in his last government. Indeed, his book is bound to be seen as a way of staking his claim to the post that previously eluded him.

Labour leader offers low-tax pledges to prevent sterling speculation that plagued his predecessors

Blair takes on Wall Street

**P**ATRICK WINTOUR in New York

**T**ONY BLAIR last night moved to prevent the currency speculation that bedevilled Labour governments in the 1970s when he assured Wall Street fund managers that a Labour chancellor would set corporation and income tax levels low enough to attract foreign investors.

Mr Blair was speaking to the US banking elite at the start of a three-day mission to explain New Labour to the economic superpower.

He will underline his low tax message today when he

tells 600 business people that he rejects leaving nostrums that high tax is a "political virility symbol".

He will try to reassure the British middle class by promising that teachers, police officers and other public sector workers should not pay more in tax.

Mr Blair believes that those earning £30,000 to £40,000 a year should not be in a higher tax band, but his aides insisted he has not decided whether to have a new higher tax band.

Speaking to the Wall Street bankers, he promised that Britain under Labour would be "a safe bet for foreign investment". It would be on the side of wealth creators,

innovators and entrepreneurs. New Labour was "changed for good" and would be committed to pursuing a tough low inflation target and macroeconomic stability.

Clearly eager to prevent the runs on sterling that plagued both the Wilson and Callaghan governments, Mr Blair told his inherently sceptical audience that Labour's days as a tax and spend party were over. He also promised that the main elements of the 1980s trade union reforms would stay.

In a meeting with George Soros, the global currency speculator, Mr Blair ruled out taxes on sterling speculation, saying the speed and scale of

transactions made such measures impossible. Mr Soros is credited with pocketing £1 billion from sterling's ejection from the exchange rate mechanism in 1992.

In his strongest indication yet of his views on a single currency, Mr Blair told friends that it was 80/40 on that core countries would form a single currency in 1999. Mr Blair recognises that bankers are nervous of the single currency experiment, but believes they do not want Britain locked into a second division of Europe.

He intends to make his commitment to Europe a strong theme of his stay, which culminates in a meeting with President Clinton in

Washington tomorrow.

Mr Blair yesterday rejected Fortress Europe, telling the bankers he was "a passionate free trader and unashamed anti-protectionist". He said: "The real danger both in the US and in Europe is coming from a vocal protectionist and isolationist right wing."

Drawing on economic thinking inside the Democrat administration, he argued that governments still had the ability in a global economy to improve "human capital" — the skills of the workforce. He promised not only continuity with the Conservative administration, but key reforms in training, skills, education and welfare.

Mr Blair is treading a deli-

cate path between wholly endorsing Bill Clinton at a time when Bob Dole has a chance of winning the presidency at the end of this year, and being seen as a future prime minister. He would like another Clinton victory even if he feels there are lessons in the way the Clinton administration was blown off course within months of its election.

Mr Blair's schedule includes a mass of TV interviews, Washington cocktail parties and an embassy dinner, before his meeting with Mr Clinton and the vice-president, Al Gore.

Leader comment, page 8; Darkings of the Dealers?, page 12

First night

Chronicle of a failing industry

John Mullin

**I**T WAS a remarkable show of faith in the security folk: John Carnegie, director, had invited everybody. Strikers and scabs, shop stewards and bosses, police and politicians. All except Peter Hall, the tartan-tied Sassenach who ran Times; and the hated hate figure during the eight-month dispute which led to the plant's closure in 1993.

Perhaps it was as well. The conflict, confined to the stage, might have spilled into the auditorium. Hall, who had sent two businessmen into liquidation before taking on Times, had offered to come: if provided with a red carpet and a starlet on his arm.

The finest moment in Alan Spence's skit but fear, of some overlong chronicle of Times's 47 years in Dundee, beginning a three-week run, comes when the excellent Alexander West (masterfully descends from above, West captures Hall's oily nature perfectly, if audience reaction is any indicator).

There had to be some misgivings about this play, given that it runs for three hours. Ricky Ross, ex of Deacon Blue, may have written the score, but the opening number, all haunting celtic pipes, hardly augured well. There were another couple of poor numbers before the dialogue settled into any rhythm, the first half dealing with Times's association with Dundee up until the dispute, which led to the sacking of the 340.

Spencer captures the great

post-war optimism as the factory opens in 1946. The workforce is good and, more, is malleable, and the company does well, bringing cheap watches to the masses. Affairs take a turn for the worse as watch-making is transferred to cheaper locations, and Dundee is host to a series of mad schemes, including the three-dimensional camera.

There is a neat play at the beginning of the second half, as the dispute between Carnegie splits the stage in a manner reminiscent of how telephone conversations were represented on old telly programmes. On one side union representative John Kydd is rallying his troops and, on the other, Hall is marshalling his scabs.

And, although there is little doubt where Spence's sympathies lie, he neatly encapsulates the ludicrous nature of Times's skit but fear, of some overlong chronicle of Times's 47 years in Dundee, beginning a three-week run, comes when the excellent Alexander West (masterfully descends from above, West captures Hall's oily nature perfectly, if audience reaction is any indicator).

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Spencer captures the great



Lady Delves Broughton, who dropped her claim for £500,000, will be a witness in the trial

Top lawyers fight legal aid case over £50m will

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

**B**RTAIN'S biggest firm of solicitors is being taken to the High Court by an Old Etonian over a £50 million will, in a case which could cost the taxpayer £250,000.

Legal aid is funding Dominic Hopton in a negligence action against Clifford Chance, the world's second biggest law firm, over the will of his great-uncle, property millionaire Eric Hopton.

The case will fuel the furor over legal aid for the apparently rich, because Mr Hopton, with his older brother and their future families, is a beneficiary under a £1.5 million discretionary trust. The trust was set up as part of a family arrangement after Mr Hopton's death, whereby the beneficiaries under the previous and still valid will, signed in 1994, agreed to redistribute his estate.

The largest individual shares, thought to be £5 million each, went to Christopher and Nicholas Hopton, sons of Eric Hopton's brother, John.

Eric Hopton, whose Belgravia Property Company owned some of central London's most expensive residential property, was drawing up a new will when he died of heart failure in 1991. Mr Hopton, aged 22, a student at Edinburgh university, alleges Clifford Chance was negligent in not ensuring the will was finalised and signed sooner.

Mr Hopton's legal aid was originally limited to negotiating a settlement of his claim, but after appealing he was granted funding for the three-week trial, due to start next Tuesday. The Legal Aid Board has already rejected arguments by Clifford Chance that he should not have been granted aid. But Steve Orchard, the board's chief executive, said yesterday that new representations by the firm were being investigated. He confirmed that a legal aid certificate could be withdrawn at any point, even during a trial.

Key witnesses will include the director of the Serious Fraud Office, George Staple, a former partner in Clifford Chance. He was one of Mr Hopton's executors under his 1994 will, but the firm insists he played no part in drafting the new will.

Until last month, Clifford Chance faced a second negligence action over the will, brought by Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, a co-director of Eric Hopton's company and a confidante. Her £500,000 claim was to have been heard with Mr Hopton's, but she dropped out, agreeing to pay Clifford Chance £175,000 towards its £260,000 costs.

She claimed she was due a further £500,000 after receiving chattels worth £300,000 and £500,000 in a deal with the

Key players

George Staple, aged 55, (below left) director of the Serious Fraud Office since 1992 and member of the council of the Law Society. Former partner at the City law firm Clifford Chance. Acted for Eric Hopton on other matters and was one of the executors of his 1994 will, but the firm says he played no part in drafting the unfinished will.

Lady Delves Broughton (Rona), aged 55. Her husband, Sir Evelyn, who died in 1993 leaving her £5 million, was a friend of Eric Hopton's. She lives at Doddington Hall, near Nantwich in Cheshire. A member of the council of Lloyd's, she was a co-director of Sir Eric's Belgravia Property Company.

Eric Hopton (above left), died childless aged 72 in 1991. A member of the Lowndes family, he inherited the Belgravia Property Company — sold in 1994 for £48.5 million. His father and brother were partners in Clifford Chance, which merged in 1987 to become Clifford Chance.

Clifford Chance's defence is that neither the firm, nor Eric Hopton, was aware that he was seriously ill. He was taking time over the revisions to his will and had not fully made up his mind. The firm is also expected to argue that the trust set up for Mr Hopton and his brother, who is not suing, is three times the size of the trust Mr Hopton meant to establish for them.

Mr Hopton's solicitor, Paul Whitaker, said: "My client has not received nor is entitled to receive any money under a settlement. He qualifies for legal aid on the merits of his case and not just those of his means." He declined to say how much money Mr Hopton was suing for.

Bosnian Serbs snub peace move

Julian Borger in Sarajevo and John Palmer in Brussels

**T**HE Bosnian Serb leadership last night turned down an invitation to a post-war reconstruction conference in Brussels, in a calculated snub to the international community.

The Serb prime minister, Rajko Kasagic, rejected the invitation on procedural grounds. But diplomats interpreted the rebuff as a victory for Serb hardliners in the Serb stronghold of Pale and a serious setback to attempts to promote the reintegration of the divided country.

In a letter to Carl Bildt, the international community's High Representative in Bosnia, Mr Kasagic said the Serbs would not attend the fundraising conference under what he called the umbrella of a single Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation.

Mr Kasagic demanded that the Bosnian Serbs be given separate and equal representation to the Muslim-Croat Federation, rather than forming part of a joint all-Bosnia delegation.

Mr Bildt accused Mr Kasagic of reneging on a previous agreement, and of further isolating his own people.

"I can only express my sympathy with the plight of your citizens, who will now risk becoming the victims of the political games being played in Pale," Mr Bildt wrote in his reply.

Western diplomats in Sarajevo said Mr Kasagic appeared to have bowed to pressure from the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic.

As an indicted war criminal, Mr Karadzic is unable to attend international conferences, and is banned from standing for office under the Dayton accord. He and other Serb hardliners have been campaigning to undermine the peace settlement.

In his reply to Mr Kasagic, Mr Bildt left the door open for a last-minute change of heart by the Serbs.

"The invitation to participate... naturally still stands. We have no intention whatsoever to isolate you — but we cannot prevent you from isolating yourself from the benefits of co-operation and reconstruction," the letter said.

Earlier yesterday, the European Union cleared the way for diplomatic recognition of former Yugoslavia and invited the Bosnian Serbs to the international conference on economic aid and reconstruction.

The Italian presidency of the EU said an agreement on mutual recognition between Serbia and Montenegro — the rump Yugoslavia — and Macedonia had removed the last obstacle to the EU's recognition of Belgrade.

There was concern, however, that the international community was downplaying promises to link economic aid to democracy, human rights and press freedom.

continued from page 1

ence in Brussels ahead of a meeting of EU finance ministers in Italy this weekend, the European commissioner for economic affairs, Yves Thiebaut de Silguy, dismissed reports that Britain would be obliged to rejoin the ERM or else face trade penalties.

But policies had to be thrashed out inside and outside the single currency group, he said, to ensure stability before monetary union started.

"We are examining a number of different ways of achieving this goal," Mr de Silguy said. "The question of

EC to vet monetary policy in move to avert currency conflict

mandatory membership of the ERM is a technical detail and is not for now. But it is essential that all member states co-ordinate policies for monetary stability and economic convergence. But because the financial markets can develop in different ways we also need monetary solidarity."

Pressed on whether membership of the ERM would be required of all EU countries when the single currency comes into being, Mr de Silguy said: "Among the 15 member states there may be some who will play a vanguard role and others who

will be in the rear. It also depends on what kind of exchange rate mechanism is agreed. Participation in a rigid ERM might be voluntary but participation in a more flexible system might be mandatory."

The commission, together with the EU monetary committee and the European Monetary Institute — the future European central bank — will report to EU finance ministers in Verona tomorrow about progress in confidence negotiations on the relations between currencies in the monetary union and those remaining outside.

The meeting in Verona will also discuss German government proposals for a tough "stability pact" binding those countries in the single currency, including penalties for those exceeding strict limits restricting government budget deficits.

But Mr de Silguy stressed that any such pact would have to be agreed by all 15 EU countries, not just those taking part in the single currency.

An agreement relaunching the ERM and fixing the terms of a single currency stability pact will not be finalised until later this year.

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Church of England loses a third of its youngsters

John Ezard

**T**HE Church of England has lost more than a third of its youth membership in nine years, according to research issued yesterday.

The figures, which will be regarded as near-catastrophic if confirmed by further surveys, are paralleled by a decline in Anglican Scout and

Guide groups. Attendance fell by 16 per cent among mid-teens and 20 per cent among 18-21-year-olds.

This fall-out by the young is far steeper than the 6 per cent decline in church-going by all age groups already reported.

Youth A Part: Young People and the Church, published by the General Synod Board of Education.

A Special Announcement

A Week on the Nile - 7 nights from £395

Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Ra

Travellers are flooding back to Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. Earlier this year we secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product and we can therefore continue to offer cruises on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser. The tour represents excellent value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions.

The journey commences with a direct flight from Galwick to Aswan to join the MS Ra. Our week-long cruise will include visits to the Temple of Edfu, Esna, the Temple of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Luxor, Kom Ombo, and the Aswan High Dam.

THE MS RA

The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommodating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, bar, sun deck with swimming pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned and have private bathrooms. For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

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Monday - per person in twin 1996 May 6, 20 £430

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

August 5, 12, 19, 26 £430

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £450

October 7, 14, 21, 28 £450

November 4, 11, 18, 25 £555

December 2, 9, 16, 23 £555

1997 January 6, 13 £485

January 20, 27 £510

February 3, 10, 17, 24 £445

March 3, 10, 17 £510

Supplements - per person

Single cabin £150

Middle deck £65

Upper deck £125

Alu. Simbel (by road) £89

Prices include: room and board, transfers, 7 nights on the Nile, full board, excursions, local representatives. Not included: travel insurance, visa (to be obtained by the passenger), airport taxes, tips. All prices are subject to change.

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صكا من الامل

# Police chief's 90mph dash

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

ONE of Britain's most senior policemen has been caught speeding at 90mph by his own officers. Yesterday his local police authority expressed regret at the offence and said any possible action would be discussed at its next meeting.

The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Ben Gunn, was stopped by traffic officers driving south on the M11 just before 9am last Saturday. He was off duty and at the wheel of his own Rover 630. The speed limit is 70mph.

Mr Gunn, the secretary of the terrorism committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, was issued with a fixed penalty ticket requiring him to pay a £40 fine, which he has done.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Gunn said: "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration which resulted in me exceeding the speed limit I was correctly reported for the offence. I have informed the police authority."

David Earle, the clerk to Cambridgeshire police authority, said: "It is with regret that the authority has learned of the chief constable's penalty for speeding. It will be considering how the matter should be dealt with in the light of all the details. It meets on May 22."

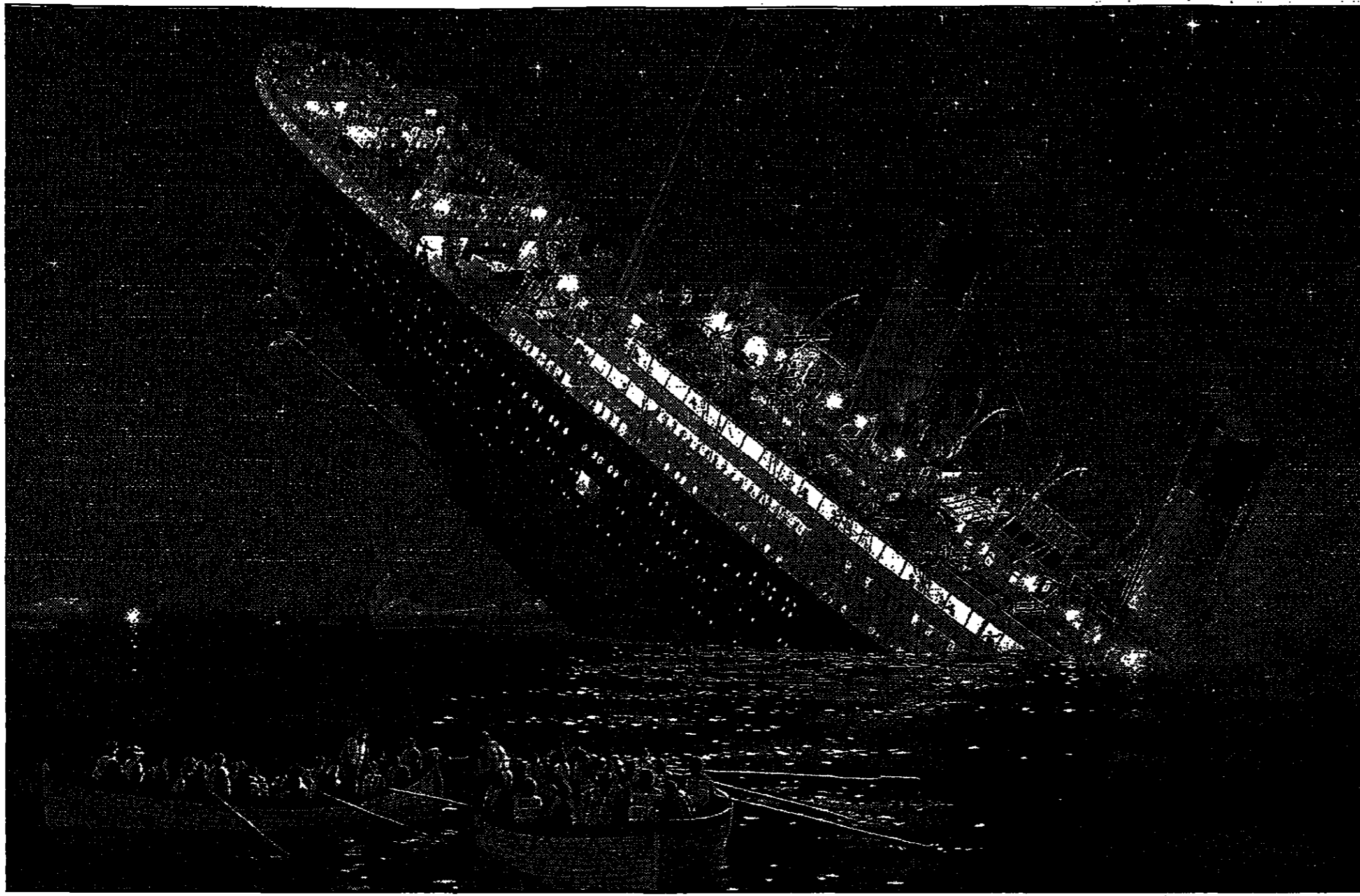
Ed Murphy, Labour's spokesman on the authority, said: "My personal opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position, although it's a matter for the police authority and we will give the incident serious consideration."

He added the incident demonstrated Cambridgeshire police dealt with everyone in an equally fair way. Police sources indicated last night that it was extremely unlikely any action would be taken against Mr Gunn. Other senior officers who have been disqualified for much more serious driving offences have not been disciplined.

Mr Gunn, aged 52, one of Britain's best-known chief constables, has held his current post for two years. He joined the police in 1983 and served in the Met, spending 26 years with Special Branch. In January 1988 he was appointed commander (operations) Special Branch.

He is one of a growing group of senior officers to fall foul of the law. Last year, it was revealed that the Assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, John Dore, had been fined £51 and banned for 12 months after admitting drink-driving in 1970.

Officers who pick up driving offences can lose their jobs, although this normally only applies to serious offences such as drink-driving. In December, Detective Constable David Hale was sacked by Northumbria police for drink-driving after he had been fined £500 and banned from driving for 18 months.



The Titanic goes down with lights still blazing and crew and passengers on board while others escape in lifeboats

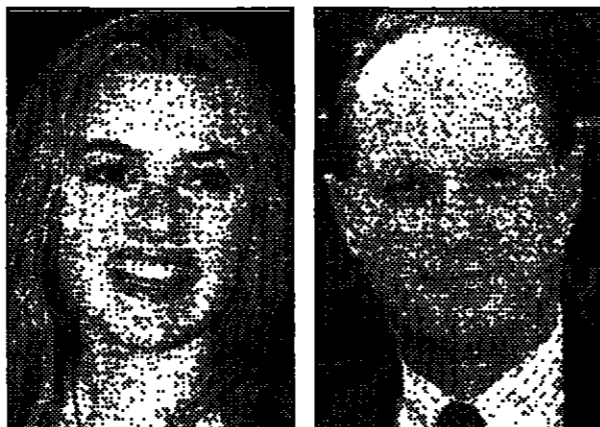
Painting by Ken Marschall from his book on the Titanic

# Titanic 'peepshow' riles last survivors

Plans to floodlight the wreck to entertain luxury cruise passengers have sparked horror, writes John Ezard

THE Titanic, the first and most potent single disaster of its century, generated fresh controversy last night when a plan was disclosed to floodlight the wreck as a live television peepshow for luxury cruise passengers.

The decade since the hulk was discovered by Robert Ballard, two miles down on the seabed, has been marked by tension between the lure of commercial exploitation and reverence for the wreck as a grave. With nearly all survivors now dead, fears are growing that the balance has tilted in favour of exploitation.



Potential star Kate Winslet (left), Robert Ballard who found the wreck, and how a New York paper broke the news



## Rail sell-off chief quits

Franchising Director to go two years early in privatisation blow

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

THE Government's rail privatisation plans suffered a serious blow yesterday, as the executive in charge of franchising passenger services announced he plans to step down two years earlier than planned.

Franchising Director Roger Salmon said he felt the programme would be at an advanced stage by the time he leaves in the autumn — and his most important task would have been completed before his role changes into a more supervisory one.

## Ministers approve 12-lane M25

will accommodate traffic growth well into the next century.

But Labour's transport spokesman, Graham Allen, said the plans were "yesterday's answer to traffic problems. Congestion on the M25 does need to be tackled, but this scheme will only generate more traffic, and by the Government's own admission, the motorway will be swamped with queues within 10 years of opening. Do we then build a 16-lane motorway?"

Friends of the Earth said the scheme would encourage traffic and increase pollution. Roger Higman, transport campaigner, said: "This decision will incense Conservative voters. Sir George Young, Transport Secretary, is heading straight for the rapids and potential disaster for the Conservatives at the next general election."

American scientists have always been less willing to embrace the brutal lexicon of natural selection and random mutation than their less religious European cousins. What is new is the aggressive effort being mounted by creationists to have their own "theory" accorded similar institutional respect to the scientific orthodoxy of evolution.

Ian Katz on America's Young Earthers

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Doctors back senior social worker's drug stance

# Ecstasy is 'as safe as taking aspirin'

Vivek Chaudhary

**D**OCTORS and drug relief agencies yesterday rallied to the defence of a senior Scottish social worker who claimed that ecstasy was "relatively safe," and that there was more chance of dying from taking an aspirin.

Mary Hartnoll, Scotland's most senior social worker, made her comments in a private memorandum to John Anderson, Glasgow city council's chief executive.

She was responding to the Glasgow Licensing Board's public campaign against drug taking in bars and clubs across the city and its hard-line approach which has ruled out the setting up of "chill-out" areas on the grounds that this could be seen to condone drug taking.

Ms Hartnoll said the "enforcement" approach to drug misuse in clubs was legitimate, but would not prevent drug misuse on its own.

She writes in the memo: "The irony is that ecstasy, for example, is a relatively safe

drug — risk of death has been calculated as one in 6.8 million — (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater) and young people tend to know this. For every highly publicised death, those who use the drug regularly balance their experience of their own, and friends' experience of frequent, safe and enjoyable usage. The 'fear' message conveys very little effect in their circumstances."

Ms Hartnoll, who is on holiday, was unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman for Release, the law and drugs helpline, expressed sympathy for her argument that anti-drugs campaigns designed to inspire fear in young users were counterproductive. "Many people use ecstasy every weekend and do not die and do not have severe side-effects. But there is no such thing as completely safe drug use while drugs remain outside the control of the law."

John Marks, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, claimed Ms Hartnoll's comments were "responsible,

intelligent, and above all, true in contrast to all the other things that are said.

"There were no deaths from ecstasy when it was legally available. The evidence indicates there are no deaths from ecstasy when there are legal, pure supplies available and there is sensible health care advice to go along with it."

Ms Hartnoll's comments, however, were branded "totally irresponsible" by the father of Essex teenager Leah Betts, who died last year after taking an ecstasy tablet on her 18th birthday.

Paul Betts said: "To come from such a prominent person, it's absolutely stupid. She should look at her facts and get her facts right before she makes such a sweeping statement."

James Coleman, chairman of the Glasgow licensing board, said that some local authorities in England had almost given up the ghost "in the fight against ecstasy."

"We believe the majority of young people don't take drugs and this type of message sends out the wrong signal to them."



Glaziers from Wells Cathedral, Somerset, work on a medieval style screen at Knightsayes Court, Devon, built mainly of teak reclaimed from Chatham dockyard, Kent. The original screen was removed when the house became a hospital during the first world war. PHOTOGRAPH: MARK J. RATTENBURY

News in brief

## Ashdown's attacker gets 12 months

A MAN who lashed out at the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown with a four-inch flick-knife was jailed for a year yesterday.

Christopher Mason, aged 51, of Yeovil, Somerset, was sentenced at Taunton crown court after changing his plea to guilty to affray and using or threatening unlawful violence.

Martin Meek, prosecuting, told the court that the attack took place when Mr Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, and the local vicar, the Rev Mark Ellis, were investigating incidents with racial overtones in Yeovil town centre last November. Mason was reported to be extremely drunk and first he tried to knee Mr Ashdown in the groin. The court was told he then lashed out with the flick-knife but Mr Ashdown, aged 54, a former marine commando who served with the Special Boat Squadron, parried the blow.

Neil Ford, defending, said that Mason, who had made 24 previous court appearances, had been extremely drunk but since being in Dorchester prison for the past four months had sought help from Alcoholics Anonymous. Jailing Mason, Recorder Charles Whitby, QC, told him the knife attack was "dangerous, reckless and wicked". — Vivek Chaudhary

## Photo licences on way

NEW plastic driving licences carrying a photograph of the holder will be introduced early next year, the Government announced yesterday.

The licences should have been introduced in July this year as part of a European Union package which includes a written theory part of the driving test.

But an EU directive has still not been finalised. The Transport Minister, Steven Norris, said: "The public want them and they will bring significant benefits in terms of establishing identity and the prevention of fraud."

## Leeson's wife takes off

LISA Leeson, wife of disgraced former Barings trader Nick Leeson, yesterday landed a job as an air stewardess with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline.

Mrs Leeson, 27, who lives at West Kingsdown, in Kent, with her parents, says she expects to report for duty on May 20. Her husband is in prison in Singapore.

## Filling up for summer

SOUTH West Water is filling its biggest reservoir in an attempt to stave off another summer of consumer restrictions.

The company is pumping millions of gallons of river water into Roadford, near Okehampton, in an operation approved by the Environment Agency. The 8 billion gallon capacity reservoir currently holds 3.5 billion gallons, around 38 per cent capacity.

South West Water hopes its 14 million gallons a day pumping operation will raise this to around 5.6 billion gallons, thereby avoiding restrictions.

## Street on Sunday

ITV confirmed yesterday that the fourth weekly episode of *Coronation Street* is to be screened on Sunday nights from the autumn. The much-looked decision was announced by Granada Television in its latest financial report.

Granada had fought for a weekend slot because it will draw valuable London advertising revenue for London Weekend Television, owned by Granada, rather than Carlton, which holds the capital's weekday franchise. — Andrew Culf

## 'Devastated' pub owner quits

THE owner of a pub from which the manager disappeared at the same time as £1,500 collected for the Durham charity fund said yesterday that he was quitting the licensed trade.

Frank Newbold said he had lost his faith in human nature and was too devastated to reopen the Hope and Anchor pub in Poplar, east London, after manager Pat Southgate fled to Malaga. The £1,500 charity fund and £3,500 from the pub disappeared at the same time.

## Accident breath tests

THE Association of Chief Police Officers' national council yesterday agreed that drivers involved in any accident should be breath-tested. Only drivers involved in accidents involving injuries or fatalities are tested. Senior officers are concerned that a minority of drivers is ignoring the laws on drink driving. — Duncan Campbell

**The horror that the pictures of Diana's thighs engendered was something like the impact of 16th century portraits with a death's head lurking in the corner. Even beautiful princesses get old.**

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Sculptor David Mach installs his sugar bowl urn sculpture, made from 6,200 galvanised wire coat hangers, at Hat Hill Sculpture Park near Chichester, Sussex. The sculpture was based on the largest garden urn in Britain at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, a National Trust property

# Parole plan 'may put jail officers' lives at risk'

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE abolition of automatic early release for inmates proposed by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, could endanger the lives of prison officers, Judge Stephen Tumm warned yesterday.

The Government's former Chief Inspector of Prisons launched a broad attack on the Home Secretary's white paper on sentencing published last week claiming its proposals for the introduction of minimum sentences amounted to a denial of justice.

At the launch of a new book on penal policy, Prisons 2000, Judge Tumm said he was particularly worried by Mr Howard's plan to remove all but a very limited amount of parole or remission which will have to be earned by each inmate.

"If you are not going to get parole or remission then you might as well beat up or murder a prison officer," he said. "It will be based on continuous assessment by prison officers. It means that ordinary prison officers will have the power to interfere with the judgement of the judges."

"What does worry me is that continuous assessment is going to cause extremely bad relations, allegations of racism, of favouritism, of support by prison officers for one prisoner against another. Nothing could be worse for prison discipline," said Judge Tumm.

He also predicted wider consequences if Mr Howard's proposals featured as a flagship bill in the Government's programme this autumn. "It will mean overcrowding in

the prisons, great expense and a widening of the gap between the classes of our society, rather than an attempt to help prisoners lead law-abiding lives.

"The proposals for minimum sentences amount to a denial of justice. It prevents the judge measuring the deserts for the prisoner. It removes the judge's independence and makes him an instrument of the executive.

"Sentencing by judges does not always mean shorter sentences than sentencing by ministers, but judges are concerned with what is just and not with the possibilities of manipulating the popular vote," he said in a direct rebuke to Michael Howard.

He warned the introduction of repeat burglars and drug dealers would discourage guilty pleas and thereby make trials more expensive.

Prisons 2000, Edited by Roger Matthews and Peter Francis, Macmillan, £14.99.



Judge Stephen Tumm ... attack on white paper

# Tory labour laws 'encourage factory closures'

Tim Radford  
Science Editor

**O**NE of Britain's top export-earning industries has told the Labour Party that Conservative employment laws designed to attract foreign investment also made it easier for international corporations to shut down factories in Britain.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, ABPI, yesterday revealed that it has been lobbying the Labour Party to ensure a secure working relationship with any future administration. High on the list of concerns, according to Tim Me-

linger, the association's president, was the fact that if Britain was an easy place for multinational companies to base themselves, it was also an easy place for them to quit.

"Many countries — France and Italy — have labour laws which make it much more difficult to make workers redundant," Dr Medinger said. This was not the case in Britain. "In some ways this is an advantage of course — we have the flexibility — but it could also be a disadvantage when it comes to companies choosing which factories to close down."

The ABPI disclosed yesterday that in 1985 its members spent \$5 million a day on

research and development and with drug and medicine exports of \$4 billion, created a \$2 billion trade surplus for the nation.

After what he described as a "hell of a year" which saw the creation of Glaxo-Wellcome as the world's biggest pharmaceutical company, and the establishment of Pharmacia Upjohn's international base in Britain, the industry was riding high.

The industry put up a record \$2 billion for research — about 20 per cent of all research and development in Britain. But at the same time the UK stayed near the bottom of the league in the number of prescriptions written

and their cost to the National Health Service.

The industry last year produced 24 new "chemical entities" — new drugs rather than improvements on old ones — and provided work directly or indirectly for 300,000 people.

But the ABPI criticised the Government's dwindling investment in basic science at universities. The ABPI's director general, Trevor Jones, said: "The money available for research — for the research councils — has not increased. In fact, it has gone downwards."

The association said it wants to persuade any future government to take even

more interest in medicine — especially if it can be shown to reduce hospital costs.

"Cheap prescribing is by no means always good prescribing, and it is important that the benefits of medicines, and not solely their cost, are taken into account when deciding how to treat patients," Dr Jones said.

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# Newsagents free to reject porn mags, says supplier

Andrew Gull  
Media Correspondent

**P**ORNOGRAPHIC magazines could be swept off the top shelves of many independent newsagents after a move by W H Smith News, which supplies 20,000 newsagents, to enable them to opt out of stocking adult titles.

The newspaper and magazine arm of the high street chain said the move clarified its existing policy, but campaigners against pornography were claiming a partial victory.

W H Smith operates a "box-out" system, whereby a pre-packed selection of items is sent to customers. Newsagents can elect not to receive the 80 adult titles in the package, but some complain that their wishes have not been respected.

A spokeswoman for the company said: "A lot of criticism has been hurled against us for some time, so

we have written to all the newsagents on our database to clarify the matter once and for all to make sure we do not inflict these magazines on those who do not want them."

The company had tried to respect retailers' wishes, but the system had on occasions fallen down, she said.

Bandy Shabeen, a newsagent at Stoke Newington, north London, who led criticisms of W H Smith with a group called Porn Free Newsagents and Convenience Stores, said he had collected £1,500 worth of magazines which he had asked to be withheld. While he welcomed the move, he said the company was still encouraging newsagents to stock the titles.

Mr Shabeen, who is campaigning for adult magazines to be sold in sealed newspapers, said: "I would like W H Smith to start behaving like its family business image."

W H Smith admitted it

had inadvertently sent Mr Shabeen copies of a magazine called Lipstick, unaware of its adult content.

The spokeswoman added: "We stock far fewer of these titles than others, and they cost a small part of the market. There is a limit to how much we will not go, but we have to balance commercial and moral obligations." Sales of adult magazines have risen by 10 per cent in the past year.

The company's high street stores carry only five adult titles. Branch managers can choose not to stock them.

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents said the box-out system caused many of its members concern. "As far as top shelf magazines are concerned, there are cultural or religious reasons why a newsagent would not want to sell them," the spokeswoman said. "We welcome this move from W H Smith as it gives some individual choice to the newsagents."

# 'Neighbours from hell' must quit council home, says judge

**A**FAMILY OF 17, known as "the neighbours from hell", are being evicted from their council home in Wythenshawe, Manchester, after 500 complaints.

Mother-of-10 Kay Potts and her extended family were given 48 hours to leave after a judge at Salford county court granted the city council a repossession order.

A council spokeswoman said: "Members of the family were chronically noisy, used abusive language and threatened violence towards their neighbours and were involved in vandalism and burglary."

Mrs Potts, 50, had been sharing her three bedroom semi, designed for six, with up to 17 people, after moving to Royalthorn Road two years ago. The council received more than 500 complaints from neighbours. The family had been evicted from their previous council house in Manchester for causing a nuisance.

Three of their neighbours, who kept a diary of the Potts's behaviour, gave evidence to the court after an injunction last year failed to have any effect.

"In the teeth of harassment and intimidation, these extraordinarily brave individuals were determined to appear in court to fight for themselves and their community," a council spokeswoman said. Neighbour Council Ridings, 37, said: "To call them the neighbours from hell is an understatement. They're an evil lot."

Mr Ridings had bricks thrown at him, his greenhouse shattered, his garage set on fire. He said: "In the end I'd just had enough."

The council housing chairwoman, Claire Nangle, praised the "courageous" tenants for "helping to end a nuisance which has caused so much misery. This is an important and successful story in the fight against anti-social behaviour."

The council's policy was to find evicted families temporary accommodation while their cases were reviewed but the judgment made it clear that such families must mend their ways, she said.

A spokesman for Mrs Potts's solicitor, Nina Ramsden, said she had no comment to make.

# Manager grew cannabis on earl's estate

**E**ARL Waldegrave's farm manager was yesterday convicted of growing cannabis at his employer's Somerset estate.

The jury at Bristol crown court unanimously convicted John Lucksted, aged 51, of possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

He admitted producing the plants last year at Rockery Farm, on the Chewton Mead estate of the earl, brother of Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave, but claimed he grew them as a hobby, solely for his own consumption.

Lucksted had also admitted two charges of possessing cannabis resin, one of possessing cannabis, and a further charge of abstracting electricity to aid propagation.

Judge Richard Toyn remanded Lucksted, of Clifton, Bristol, in custody until May 8 pending a report.

Earlier the court heard that on September 14 last year police had raided the farm and found "substantial quantities" of cannabis and up to 1,000 plants worth an estimated £70,000 to £75,000.

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# 'They were destroyed by those who hate everything beautiful and pure'

Julian Borger in Sarajevo reports on the simple burial ceremony for the city's most famous lovers, and the grieving for a way of life that was shattered by the war

SARAJEVO buried its most famous lovers yesterday. A young Serb and his Muslim girlfriend who were killed for trying to stay together while Bosnia was being torn apart.

Admira Ismic and Bosko Berkic were shot dead on Sarajevo's front line three years ago as they tried to escape the siege. Their bodies were dragged away and hastily buried on the Serb side of the lines.

Admira's family had to wait for a peace settlement and the reunification of the city to bring the lovers home.

Under an angry sky and spitting rain, the two coffins were lowered into a shared grave marked by two simple wooden memorials bearing their names. There were no priests and no prayers — just brief personal goodbyes from old schoolfriends.

"Your young lives were destroyed by those who hate everything beautiful and pure, but your friends have not forgotten you," said a man in a trenchcoat. "If noth-

ing else we'll visit your grave in a free town."

A girl standing at his side said: "In another life, we'll all be together again."

After their deaths at the age of 25, the press dubbed the couple the Romeo and Juliet of the Bosnian war.

The lovers met at school eight years before the war, when most Sarajevans gave little thought to their ethnic identity. The innocence of their generation was buried beside them in a country finding it difficult to heal itself while crude nationalism still prevails over tolerance.

Most of yesterday's mourners were friends of the Ismic family. Bosko's family was scattered by the war. His father is dead and his mother and brother are said to be in Belgrade or Canada.

Admira's parents accepted condolences and flowers with a blank, uncomprehending expression. After the ceremony, as the mourners walked towards the cemetery gate, Nera Ismic broke down in tears and turned back to

hug and kiss her daughter's small memorial.

Zijah, her husband, watched helplessly, looking lost and bewildered beneath the black baseball cap he wore against the spring rain.

Determined to escape the war, Admira and Bosko thought they had secured guarantees from both sides of safe passage out of the city. They were double-crossed and gunned down in May 1993 near Vrbanja bridge, a front-line position near the city centre, a few yards from safety.

In her dying moments, Admira crawled to Bosko's body and put her arm over his shoulder. Their bodies were left in that final embrace for five days, while the opposing armies squabbled over who was to blame and who should venture out of their bunkers to retrieve the bodies.

It was never clear who betrayed the couple. Zijah Ismic commissioned a private autopsy this week which he believes proves they were shot by the Serbs.

But his certainty has brought little consolation. "It's more important to bury them here than find out who shot them, as they're dead anyway," he said. "I can't change what happened, can't bring them back to life."

When the war broke out



Admira's mother says a sad farewell at the lovers' final resting place in Sarajevo yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DARIO BANCIC

## Pact sours Turkish-Arab ties

Chris Nutball in Ankara

TURKEY'S relations with its Muslim neighbours and the Arab world were further strained yesterday when it announced that it had asked Iran to withdraw four of its diplomats for 'activities incompatible with their status'.

The foreign ministry said four Turkish diplomats, accused by Tehran of spying, would also be recalled.

"Our diplomats carried out their duties in accordance with international law," the ministry's spokesman, Omer Akbel, said. "They have been accused unjustly."

The Iranian diplomats had been named as his contacts by an Islamic fundamentalist "hitman" arrested in Istanbul last month.

He is wanted in connection with the assassination of Iranian dissidents and prominent Turkish secularists.

The tit-for-tat exchange follows a week of intense criticism of Turkey for signing a military co-operation deal with Israel. Islamic countries regard the deal as a betrayal and the formation of a new axis to threaten them.

The Arab League said it was "an act of aggression" and "a direct threat against Syria, Lebanon and Iraq as well as other Arab countries (which) shows the evil inten-

tions of Israel and Turkey towards the Arabs".

The Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Musa, said it was "very dangerous in relation to the region's security; this will create new tensions in the Middle East".

Iranian newspapers commented: "We now have to worry about the presence of Israeli jet fighters on our doorstep."

The Iraqi press said the deal would "encourage the Zionist entity to continue its

allowed to carry out training flights in Turkish airspace. "The planes do not carry weapons, ammunition or intelligence equipment," Mr Akbel said yesterday, confirming that the flights had begun.

He said relations with Israel had been developing since the start of the Middle East peace process, but Turkey still supported Arab countries demanding the return of invaded lands. Turkey was not the only country

Turkish air force Phantom fighter bombers. Visa requirements have been dropped, and 300,000 Israelis are taking holidays in Turkey each year.

Although Turkey is a Muslim republic, its secular government has recognised an affinity with Israel. They are the only Western-style democracies in the Middle East and both are establishing closer ties with the European Union.

On the key issue of water shortages in the Middle East, Turkey and Israel are working on a project to collect and ship water from the Manavgat river. Turkey is the only country in the region with excess water and would sell the Manavgat surplus to Israel.

Turkey is in dispute with Syria and Iraq about the amount of water its dams allow to flow down the Tigris and Euphrates into their countries.

Syria has denied reports of an agreement with Greece to use each other's airbases, countering the Turco-Israeli pact.

"Turkey has been too much pro-Arab in the past," said Suha Boulikbasi, a professor of international relations in Ankara. "Now it's become too much pro-Israeli."

Turkey's national interest, Israel does not have that much to offer and this is creating unnecessary tensions. A military co-operation agreement between Turkey and Israel or any other country in the region is unprecedented, he doesn't think it's as comprehensive as its opponents fear."

Turkish security forces have killed four illegal Afghan immigrants and arrested eight others on Turkey's border with Iran, the Anatolian news agency said yesterday.

The agency said a fight broke out between the Afghans and Turkish soldiers as the 12 tried to cross the border near the town of Gaziantep.

It said the incident began when the Afghans opened fire in response to a call by Turkish soldiers to stop.

## Zyuganov woos with tales of woe

The Russian Communist leader vows that his party will not repeat past mistakes, reports David Hearst from Voronezh

WORKSHOP Number Seven was a good place for Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party, to launch his attack on the Kremlin.

Behind the podium lay six gleaming Russian jumbo jets. All were completed and awaiting Pratt & Whitney engines and Rockwell-Collins avionics from their American partners. Skulking in the shadows was Boris Yeltsin's private jet, which has yet to be delivered to the president for lack of money. The irony was not lost on the audience.

Vyacheslav Kuzmin, chief of foreign economic co-operation, squirmed as he explained the difficulties faced by the factory. There were suspicions in Voronezh that their arch-rival Boeing was trying to stop Rockwell-Collins delivering the avionics they were contracted to supply.

"Boeing tried to put the brakes on the programme and now we have a delay which violates the trilateral agreement," he said.

He shrugged. The factory had at last entered the cut-throat world of a fiercely competitive industry. They had good, cheap jumbo planes. Not a single Ilyushin 96 had crashed in 17 years. They had a poten-

tially huge market. By the year 2000 more than 800 Russian aircraft would be over 20 years old. But no one had money to build the new planes.

Could their new Ilyushin 96 do any better under the Communists? The 5,000 aircraft workers listened eagerly to Mr Zyuganov.

Nothing in a Russian presidential campaign conforms to Western standards and, instead of trying to cheer up his audience, the candidate related statistics of industrial decline.

"Do you know what is the biggest queue in Russia today?" Mr Zyuganov

asked. There was silence in the 150ft-high aircraft hangar. "It is the queue for the cemetery."

He proceeded to rattle off the statistics of what appeared to be a terminal decline. Did we know, for example, that 1 million Russians died last year? ... Turning to his recent travels in Ivanovo, a textile area devastated by mill closures, he went on: "One mother told me that she was afraid to wake her children up in the morning because she didn't have anything to give them for breakfast."

The gloomier he got, the better his message went down.

But despite the hardships which economic reform had brought, 5 million Russians were involved in small business and to get

rid of them would start a civil war, he said.

"We have to keep all forms of ownership. I am in favour of every family keeping its own plot of land."

Later that day in a packed hall in the centre of town, Mr Zyuganov laid part of the problem at the feet of the old Communist Party, of which he was still a member six years ago.

"We really have only ourselves to blame. We weren't doing the necessary reforms. We maintained command administrative distance which suited wartime conditions but was completely obsolete for today's needs. The party tried to conserve its monopoly of ownership of power and of truth, but it ended up not only destroying itself but our country," he said to loud applause.

Valentina, a 35-year-old aircraft worker, was impressed by the Communist leader's performance.

"I like my work but I only get paid 200,000 roubles a month (about £30) and my flat costs me 120,000 roubles. I cannot have a second child and I want my daughter to attend university. Who do I vote for? Certainly not Yeltsin, but I still have not decided whether I trust Zyuganov."

Virtually barred from appearing on television, Mr Zyuganov can only deliver his message by going directly to the people. He appeared young, healthy and sober. The comparison with the president was not favourable to Mr Yeltsin.

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### News in brief

#### Israeli soldier killed by Hizbullah shelling

AN ISRAELI soldier was killed and three were wounded in south Lebanon yesterday when Hizbullah fighters hit their outpost with mortar bombs.

The soldier died of his wounds after dozens of bombs hit Biat outpost in the western sector of the Israeli-held zone. In Beirut, Lebanon cleric Ehabullah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for shelling the Biat post.

In reprisal, Israeli and SLA

forces shelled four guerrilla-held villages in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources said.

They said a man aged 20 was wounded in Yater after dozens of shells hit the village and three other villages north of the western sector of the Israeli-held zone. In Beirut, Lebanon cleric Ehabullah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for shelling the Biat post.

Tension has run high on the Lebanon-Israel border since Hizbullah fighters fired two salvos of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel on Tuesday, wounding 36 people.

Hizbullah said the rocket attacks were in retaliation for the death of a Lebanese boy and the wounding of three other civilians in a bomb blast it blamed on the Jewish state. Israel said it did not plant the bomb. — Reuter.

#### 'Shocking' sexual harassment could cost Mitsubishi \$100m

THE United States's biggest-ever sexual harassment case is being brought against a Mitsubishi factory in Illinois by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, on the eve of President Clinton's departure for Tokyo, writes Martin Walker in Washington.

More than 300 women are cited in the government agency's case against the Mitsubishi factory, and each case could result in a maximum fine and compensation of \$300,000 (\$200,000).

But even if the firm is hit with the full penalty, which could come to as much as \$100 million, Mitsubishi is

liable for far more under separate civil lawsuits brought by the women.

The commission cited cases in which women assembly-line workers were pressurised to give oral sex to supervisors to keep their jobs; another in which a manager placed an unloaded airgun between a woman worker's legs and pulled the trigger; and a "gross and shocking" climate of sexual discrimination and abuse at the plant.

Commission officials said some women had resigned in the face of such humiliating conditions and, thus, were effectively fired.

#### Sons of Algerian opposition leader charged in Germany

GERMAN prosecutors said yesterday they had charged two sons of the Algerian fundamentalist opposition leader Abassi Madani with explosives offences and belonging to a criminal organisation.

Saïm and Ikbal Abassi are accused of involvement in a group smuggling arms to anti-government forces in Algeria. Two other men were charged with belonging to the group.

Abassi Madani is the co-founder of the fundamentalist

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which took up arms against Algeria's military rulers after they disallowed the 1992 general election, which the FIS was about to win.

Prosecutors said the men aimed to support two groups dedicated to the overthrow of the Algerian government: the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS). The group had organised the shipment of about 170 gun, plus ammunition and explosives. — Reuter.

#### Skulls found in jail oven

HUMAN skulls, thigh bones and other fragments were found in the ovens of an Argentine maximum-security prison where seven inmates disappeared during a revolt that ended on Sunday, law enforcement officials said yesterday.

The discovery was made at the Sierra Chica prison in Azul, in the south of Buenos Aires province, where 1,000 inmates remained last week, setting off revolts in 20 other prisons. — New York Times.

#### 2,000 join anti-Peng protest

ABOUT 2,000 demonstrators gathered near the Eiffel Tower last night after a day of protest against the visit of the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, writes Paul Webster in Paris.

Protesters marched on the Champs-Élysées and assem-

bled under the banners of 30 human rights organisations concerned by political repression in China and Tibet.

The organising committee, called We Will Not Forget Tiananmen, protested against a decision to ban gatherings around the Chinese embassy.

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# India's poor are lepers in misery city

Charities are the only hope for the needy in Calcutta, writes **Suzanne Goldenberg**

**S**INDU Bala Ghosh can rattle off the warning signs of leprosy with ease: white patches on the skin, numbness and pain in the fingers. But when she developed the symptoms, she did nothing. She knew too well that her family and neighbours would shun her, and that is what happened.

Mrs Ghosh, who still has the *sindoor*, the red powder in the hair parting worn by Hindu wives in some parts of India even though she has been abandoned by her family, lives alone on a Calcutta street, begging for scraps of food to survive.

"If I go to talk to people, they turn away," she says. "And then I talk to God and ask him why he has done this to me."

Six years after the onset of the disease, which can be deceptively slow at first, a wound is oozing through the bandage on her right foot and her hands have become useless claws. Twice a month she makes the painful journey by rickshaw, train and bus to Chitpur, north Calcutta, where her wounds are bathed and she is treated like a human being.

For many the clinic, which operates under tarpaulin held up by bamboo poles on the banks of the Hooghly river, is the only hope against the disease.

Run by Jack Preger, a British doctor, the clinic is one of several projects for the most wretched of Calcutta's citizens.

While Mother Teresa is Calcutta's most celebrated benefactor, several other foreign charities operate in the city, many the result of sheer will-power of individuals moved by Calcutta's reputation of a city of despair.

Unlike Mother Teresa, they have no champions to help them negotiate India's labyrinthine bureaucracy and its sensitivity to foreign scrutiny of the country's poverty.

Dr Preger, from Manchester, moved to Calcutta in 1979 after he was expelled from Bangladesh for exposing the traffic in babies. His Calcutta

Rescue runs the leprosy camp, two medical clinics and two schools, staffed by 130 local people, including 17 doctors. A cast of western volunteers serve for a few months at a time.

For the most part his doctors attend to the diseases of poverty and the ailments that other doctors turn away from: tuberculosis, malnutrition in children, leprosy. The clinics give out free medicine and food, and pay for hospitals for the very sick.

At the mother and baby clinic at Tala Park, the misery is unending. Nur Jehan's four-month-old daughter is so wasted that her skin hangs from her tiny frame in wrinkled folds. Her mother mixes up the cereal she has been given and spoons it into the baby's mouth. "I think soon she will be better," she says.

After more than 15 years in Calcutta, Dr Preger says he can see signs that the misery has lessened. "There is a fair amount of intense suffering. It is very difficult for someone who is very poor to get treated properly."

Dr Preger was made an MBE in 1993 for his services to the poor, but in 1981 he was jailed for eight days on charges of operating clandestinely as a foreign missionary. He was eventually cleared after eight years.

Three years ago his pavement clinic in central Calcutta was shut down and he was forced to move to the northern fringes of the city, beyond the reach of many of the needy.

Since 1989 he has been fighting to get Calcutta Rescue registered as a charity, which would help bring in money raised by British and European supporters.

Last year Calcutta Rescue nearly closed for lack of cash after the authorities refused to approve a transfer of funds. It needs one million rupees (nearly £20,000) a month. Dr Preger says he was told that bureaucrats were sitting on the files until they could get their cut.

Since then Calcutta Rescue appears to have won a temporary reprieve. Last month, after a year of litigation, the Calcutta high court allowed him to bring in funds until next October, and urged the government to reconsider its refusal to register his charity.

But Dr Preger is still not sure the battle with bureaucracy is over.



Narrow escape... Tyome Dennis, a Liberian, and her daughter, an American citizen, run from a helicopter in Freetown yesterday to a Dakar-bound plane

# 'Ceasefire' fails to prevent Liberian exodus

**Nyansah Allison in Monrovia**

**H**UNDREDS of foreigners queued outside the United States embassy in Monrovia yesterday hoping for lifts on military helicopters out of the embattled Liberian capital.

Tanks from the West African peacekeeping force patrolled parts of the city after Liberia's warring factions appeared to reach a tenuous agreement to end four days of fierce fighting, shelling and looting.

There were reports of sporadic gunfire and shelling and a spokesman for the US embassy said he could not confirm that there had been a ceasefire.

"There are long lines of people of all nationalities that are trying to get into the American embassy compounds," he said.

Up to 600 people were waiting patiently outside the gates for screening to see whether they qualified

to join the airlift. American citizens, Liberians with US residential cards or passports, and third country nationals were eligible for evacuation.

A team of 18 navy commandos was flown to Liberia to reinforce security at the embassy.

By yesterday afternoon 202 foreigners had been evacuated, including the Egyptian ambassador, Ahmad el-Masri.

According to Commander Bob Anderson, a spokesman for the US European Command in Germany who is with the evacuation team in neighbouring Sierra Leone, about half the evacuees were Americans.

"It was very tense when

we left Liberia, but thank God we got out safely," one American woman gasped as she took three children from the helicopter on to a C-130 cargo plane taking the evacuees to accommodation in Dakar, Senegal. The UN envoy to Liberia, Anthony Nyakyl, said a

African peacekeepers acting as a buffer.

It said the rebels had begun releasing some of the African peacekeepers they were holding.

But fighting still sounded intense yesterday outside the embassy compound.

Paul Koulen, an official

Up to 15,000 civilians, ranging from foreign diplomats to missionaries and Liberians, have fled to the US embassy compounds and UN offices since Saturday, when the worst fighting in three years erupted in Monrovia.

Mr Koulen said the 200 UN workers in Monrovia were running short of food.

"We still have some military rations here that we can survive on," Mr Koulen said.

"It's not yet desperate, but in a couple of days, it will be."

The BBC, quoting a spokesman for the African peacekeepers, said that the rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson had agreed under the terms of the ceasefire to turn himself in to authorities.

Later, however, the BBC reported that Mr Johnson had said he would not surrender. — AP.

Pass Notes, G2 page 3

**'It was very tense when we left but thank God we got out safely,' a woman gasped as she took three children from the helicopter to a cargo plane heading for Dakar, Senegal**

# Brando takes it all back

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

**A** CONTRITE Marlon Brando will visit a Jewish museum tomorrow to apologise for saying that Jews "own" and "run" Hollywood, and have abused their power by insulting portrayals of minority groups while avoiding negative depictions of Jews.

His remarks on CNN's Larry King Live television chat show on Friday were criticised as anti-Semitic.

The actor, aged 73, who won an Oscar for his role in the Godfather in 1972, agreed to visit the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance, run by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and make a public statement about his remarks. The visit was arranged by Rabbi Marvin Hier, the centre's founder.

Mr Hier said Brando had telephoned him, expressed remorse, and recalled his support for Israel in the past.

"I told him: 'Marlon, I never thought you were an anti-Semite, but the words you used on the show were music to the ears of racists and bigots all over the world,'" Mr Hier said.

In films, Brando said on the television show, "We've seen the nigger, and the greasball. We've seen the chink and the slit-eyed dangerous Jap. We've seen the wily Filipino. We've seen everything. But we never saw the kike because they know perfectly well that that's where you draw the wagons around."

Although there is little substance in his remark about Jews owning Hollywood — banks and Wall Street, including huge investments from Japan, France and elsewhere, finance the studios — some agreed with him that Jews were treated with velvet gloves in Hollywood films.

But Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, vowed to make the actor's life "a living hell."

"I'm not sure it goes far enough," he said of the museum visit. "He's not a kid going to a museum. He's an adult who's had these views for 25 years."

Brando's agent Jay Kantar, himself a Jew, said: "Anyone trying to say Marlon is anti-Semitic has got the wrong guy."

But he acknowledged that his client had used unfortunate language.

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## An official smokescreen

Voluntary controls on public smoking will not work

KICKING the habit of smoking is hard: breaking a government pledge to do something about it seems to be a good deal easier. Four years ago the Department of the Environment said that it would consider legislation to enforce smoking controls in public places. Four months ago officials indicated that the time had come to consider taking such action. On Tuesday environment minister James Clappison said no: the government had changed its mind. His about-turn was obscured by a smokescreen, if the word may be used, of useless exhortation. Some types of public places had made "great strides" in implementing an effective policy to provide smoke-free areas: Mr Clappison urged others to follow their example. It is doubtful whether many licensed victuallers or restaurateurs will even notice that the minister is urging them to take action. The DoE's research report "Smoking in Public Places" which he was introducing is also unlikely to be widely read. Government documents which are issued the day after a Bank Holiday don't usually stir up enormous controversy. But that could not possibly be relevant to the timing of the release, could it?

This announcement is not of a technical nature: it will affect anyone who goes anywhere in public. The original DoE 1992 white paper accepted the need for smoke-free zones to be available in all categories of public buildings or facilities. Its purpose was unequivocally to protect non-smoking members of the public. Mention of "passive smoking" now attracts groans and ridicule only from a small minority of those refusing to believe the overwhelming weight of opinion. Everyone else from the Department of Health to independent researchers accepts that inhaling other people's smoke is damaging to health — and particularly so for the young and those suffering from respira-

tory problems. The 1992 statement set out a reasonable objective: to achieve an effective smoking policy in 80 per cent of public places within two years, or else consider legislation. The target has clearly not been achieved: only schools and health centres have come close to meeting it. Last December as the report now published was in final draft stage, the DoE went on the record to The Guardian to say that the time had come to "honour (the) pledge".

The junior minister's repudiation now of this pledge is not only wrong but comes at the worst possible time. The sharp rise in teenage smoking is particularly alarming: 12 per cent of 11- to 15-year olds now smoke regularly. New evidence also underlines the connection between deprivation and smoking. This is not an issue of civil liberties and the government has a plain duty to act where health and safety is at stake. Even conservative ministers will find it hard to claim that market forces can solve the problem: the market forces which do prevail — perhaps especially when an election is drawing near — are those of the tobacco firms. Even though the industry has begun to be thrown on to the defensive in the US courts, it still has enormous resources with which to protect its enormous interests. Banning tobacco advertisements is another issue which has been ducked in Whitehall — even though the Department of Health accepts that just a one per cent drop in smoking would save over one thousand lives a year. It is unfortunately not enough to rely on voluntary measures. Too often this becomes an alibi for the failure of the public or private sector to take proper action on behalf of the ill-protected consumer or employee. We need to know — from a senior not a junior minister — why the government has changed its mind. And if it is that easy, then it should be changed back again.

## Performance-related ministers

Michael Howard might find himself paying us for his office

PROBATION officers are upset by the latest move of Michael Howard: introducing performance-related pay to the service. They are right to be suspicious of the criteria and targets which he would select. Perhaps a bonus, for example, for the officer who makes the most recommendations for imprisonment in their social inquiry reports. But rather than continue to resist the idea, there is another option: insist on the Home Secretary taking a spoon of his own medicine too. If, as ministers are insisting, performance-related pay is appropriate for police officers, teachers, the armed forces, civil servants, diplomats and even MI5 officers, then why shouldn't it apply to ministers as well? Indeed, the idea is not as new as might be believed. It was quietly suggested by the Downing Street policy unit in 1992 but quickly squashed by John Major. In the words of one academic observer of Whitehall: "a classic case of institutional hypocrisy: we're special but everyone else must be reformed." Time to try again.

Michael Howard is as good a guinea pig as any to launch the new programme. The key to success, as he knows, is selecting the right criteria. So let us be fair and begin with his strongest card: the crime rate. Three successive annual reports have recorded falling figures. A cumulative drop of 10 per cent over three years. But in the three previous years there were phenomenal increases of 13, 18, and 11 per cent or 42 per cent over all. So Michael Howard's

starting salary, coinciding as it did with the end of that period, would have been at a record low. Indeed, if the Home Secretary's pay was directly linked to each percentage rise or fall in the crime rate, he could still be paying the Home Office for the honour of his office since crime has risen by more than 101 per cent since the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

There are two other obvious criteria: operations and policy. Michael Howard denies he is involved in operations but thanks to the Learmonth Report and the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Judge Tummim, we know that to be a lie. In the words of Judge Tummim, dividing responsibilities between policy (Mr Howard) and operations (the Prison Director), was bogus and left Mr Howard "responsible for nothing at all." So the serious prison escapes under Howard from Parkhurst and Whitemoor both produce serious deductions to the Home Secretary's £70,000 salary (plus Parliamentary allowances). Then there are his policy initiatives. Let those be assessed by a special board: the Lord Chief Justice, Judge Tummim, the prison governors, the union representing senior civil servants, and the probation service. All have condemned the incumbent. If Michael Howard remains undeterred there is a further PRP element the efficiency test which bars promotion beyond a person's competence. Is any minister who sold us the poll tax and then privatised water qualified to become Home Secretary? We think not.

## Rocking all the way to the polls

Can music help reconnect the young to the political system?

"I DO hope the launch of Rock the Vote is a success," said John Major in an unstinting endorsement of the music industry's youth voter registration campaign which kicked off yesterday. He deserves credit for this. Not that his sentiment is controversial. An estimated 40 per cent of 18-24 year olds failed to vote in the last election, half of them because they weren't interested, and the others because they weren't even registered. It's not quite true to say, as Demos did recently, that "an entire generation has opted out of politics", but they are disconnected from the political system.

It isn't apathy. Two thirds of them claim to have taken part in protests on roads, animals, jobs. Yet they don't always bother to check they are registered to hit the politicians in the one place where it hurts — in the ballot box. This may be because they don't know how or when to register, or they move

home too frequently, but often they have a fear of registration that started with the poll tax and has now become a habit. At least 600,000 drifted off the electoral register as a result of the poll tax, according to research by Iain McLean and Jeremy Smith of Warwick University, but far fewer drifted back.

That is why John Major deserves some credit. If Rock the Vote persuades more young people to register and vote, few are likely to vote Conservative. In America it helped Clinton and here it would almost certainly help Blair. On ICM's adjusted figures, 54 per cent of 18-24 year-olds would vote Labour and 20 per cent Conservative, compared to 47 and 29 per cent respectively of the population as a whole. But these figures exclude the don't knows and therefore obscure the real problem. Young people are still disproportionately undecided and unregistered. That is why Rock the Vote deserves the support of all parties.



## Letters to the Editor

### Get real about this world

FULL marks to Hugo Young for discussing the Real World Initiative (Commentary, April 9). The environment is the sleeping giant of British politics which needs to be awoken: Real World can help. I must, however, take issue with his statement that questions thrown up by the broad, environmental issue are not answerable by party.

For over 20 years, the Green Party has been campaigning on precisely the issues he highlights and, what is more, proposing solutions. There is no doubt that conversion to a sustainable society will be a long and huge undertaking, which will require more than simple political impetus from Westminster.

But such impetus is also a necessary part of a movement for change. A significant proportion of the public have doubts about the direction of our growth-orientated economics and would seriously consider voting for a change in direction and ethos.

Sadly, they know the Real World consequences of our electoral system. There is little chance of Green representation with a first-past-the-post electoral system. The

other parties will not address these long-term problems because they can get away with keeping their heads down. Paul Anderson, East Midlands Green Party, 68 Faveril Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2HU.

ALTHOUGH a remarkable and worthy achievement, the critical influence that Real World aims to achieve cannot, unfortunately, be achieved purely by lobbying the main political parties. These parties are all concerned with maximising economic growth and short-term profit-making in the suicidally competitive world market economy — the very system which is wrecking havoc on the globe and its people.

The only way real political clout can be gained is by building up strong and active Green parties, as they have done in Germany, Finland and many other countries. Non-Green parties may pay lip service to green issues, but it is way down their political agenda. Only when they start losing votes will politicians sit up and take notice. Bill Hughes, 16 Goddard Avenue, Swindon SN1 4HR.

THE lack of peace-movement organisations is conspicuous by its absence in Jonathan Porritt's Real World initiative (Common touch in a real world, April 3).

Secondly, even if something like Trident is too frightening for the Real World, the lack of any reference to even the "civilian" nuclear industry (in the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster) is astounding in the context of the declared aims of the project.

Thirdly, why is the whole thrust of this campaign geared towards the policies of political parties rather than how we can solve things ourselves by changing our own lives? Lastly, if this initiative is to focus on standards to be demanded of others, then it shouldn't have so carefully avoided any reference to the most obvious underlying strategy necessary for the achievement of many of its aims: the need to confront multinational corporations.

What might look to ex-Green Jonathan Porritt as an exciting synthesis looks to others of us more like a lowest common denominator. Albert Seale, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

### Chief Inspector evaluated and found to be incompetent

THE core argument in your education leader (April 9) seems to be that Ofsted is "good" for schools and that its chief inspector should be praised for giving a "high profile" to "falling standards" and "incompetent" teachers. Conversely, you argue that the teaching profession is "too insular and defensive" for opposing the current system of inspection and its identification of "poor" teachers. Well, of course we oppose the current system of inspection. It is hard to see how one week's inspection can tell us anything meaningful about either teachers or schools.

I'm a highly qualified and experienced support teacher, and spend all of my time in other teachers' classrooms. I see how they teach for 40 weeks of the year. Ofsted spends one or possibly two hours in each of these classrooms. From this they make their judgments on teaching competence or otherwise. My observations reveal a picture of teachers who do care about what and how they teach.

Many will approach me at the end of a lesson to say that they weren't happy with the way they taught that lesson and then discuss ways in which they could improve it. This seems to suggest to me that teachers, far from being "insular and defensive", are open to new ideas. Simon Midgley, 63 Bankside Lane, Bacup, Lancs OL13 8HP.

group is akin to the thought processes of totalitarians rather than to exponents of the open society.

There are three unverified assumptions that the perceived failure of the education system can be blamed on a group of under-performing teachers; that Ofsted is capable of identifying such teachers; that their substitution by Ofsted-approved teachers will improve matters.

Judgments based on observation of lessons by teachers, administrators, inspectors and even pupils themselves are poor predictors of learning outcomes. The attempt to classify teachers into seven grades will be flawed. Pupils generally seem to learn best from teachers who are considered moderate and some even learn well from teachers rated poor.

Critics too often rely on personal childish memories predating the development of their analytic faculties. Their world comprises absolutes, good teachers and bad teachers — get rid of the bad and the good remain; there you have it, all very simple and all reinforced by adolescent certainty. Playing musical chairs with teachers' jobs achieves nothing. David Griffiths, 12 Forres House, Cameron Close, Brentwood CM14 5BS.

I HAVE a simple question for the Chief Inspector of Schools. How does he propose to find 15,000 competent teachers to replace those he wants sacked? W Glyn Jones, 31 Blenheim Road, Bolton BL2 6EA.

YOUR leader attributing continued failure of the education system to a segment of "incompetent" teachers merely serves to cloud the issues; attributing system failure to some unidentified

## Men and vanity

AS usual Francis Wheen (Wheen's World, April 10) does not allow the facts to stand in the way of a good story. I am not the author of the Conservative Central Office document about Labour's past standpoints on Anglo-American issues, though it does draw on a number of accurate facts set out in the 1992 Central Office publication, "Who's Left", which I compiled.

It is amusing that Mr Wheen sees fit to dredge up information about my political activities as far back as the late 1970s, whilst hypocritically criticising the Conservative for setting out the political record of Tony Blair and his cronies over the last few years. (Dr) Julian Lewis, Deputy Director, Conservative Department, 32 Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3EH.



MY vanity was wounded by your recent remarks in the vanities of art critics. Your Media diarist noted (April 8) that "Andrew Graham-Dixon, the Independent's art critic and presenter of BBC2's History of British Art... urged on the Indy a Section 2 cover story involving a picture of himself and the question: 'Is this the new Kenneth Clark?'"

What he failed to mention was that my suggestion was a spoof, and that in the above-mentioned photograph I happened to be sticking my tongue out and impersonating an 18th-century medieval gargoyle in the likeness of a baboon.

I hope your correspondent gets a chance to watch programme three in A History of British Art. Its theme is irony. Andrew Graham-Dixon, BBC 2E15, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 637 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

## That supermarket sweepstake

AS stakeholders, we should rejoice at Tesco's decision to invest £20m on "customer care" by employing customer assistants. Employees benefit from the removal of 4,500 people from competition next time they seek a new post. Producers benefit from £20m additional purchasing power.

May we hope that some supermarket petrol stations will now take courage and increase their customer care back to the level of the 1980s by employing petrol assistants so that we can get petrol and oil without getting our hands dirty; and even that bus companies will employ bus assistants (we could call them "conductors"), thus also benefiting stakeholders with an interest in less congested roads, quicker journeys, or less crime on buses. Pauline Williamson, 1 St Mary's Grove, London SW13 0JA.

## Advice taken

OUR nearby one-man Occer's shop has, for many years, welcomed each customer by name as soon as he/she enters the shop. He also helps to pack shopping, always loads my trolley for me and lifts it out of the shop. I only wish he could afford to sell more goods but he has been undercut by the local. Theresa Griffin, 48 Grove Avenue, Lancing.

SAFWAYS has gone for the cheaper option. On Good Friday we headed for our local store in Brixton to do our shopping, only to find our purchases being packed most diligently by the Boy Scout. Julia Morgans, Corner House, Main Street, Great Longstone, Derbyshire DE45 1TZ.

## Pope knows

RE your report on the refounding of a private school in Purley (Catholic parents in Opus Dei sect to open school, April 11), Opus Dei is a prelatry of the Roman Catholic Church. Its head is a bishop, and reports to the Congregation of Bishops, under the Pope. Its founder has been beatified.

If anything we are known for our loyalty to the Pope, and have met criticism for standing united with the hierarchy. Your use of the term "sect", which implies the opposite, is thus unacceptable. Andrew Scanes, Director, Opus Dei Information Office, 5 Orme Court, London W2 4RL.

## A Country Diary

ROCKFIELD. The herd of whooper swans were grazing on a field just inland from this small east coast village in the Highlands. There were 57 adults but only seven juveniles, indicating a poor breeding season last year in their home ground of Iceland. The very first bird I looked at had rings on its legs — a yellow ring on one leg and a metal one on the other. Once in the past I have managed to read the numbers and letters on a yellow ring through a telescope but this bird was much too far away. I could have tried to get closer but the birds were wary and as this was likely to be their last feeding grounds before flying north I did not wish to chance disturbing them. However, as I was scanning the birds, I suddenly found that two of them had yellow neck rings and as these have larger numbers and letters the telescope might reveal some secrets. With the telescope on the window mount of the car I focused and found it fairly easy to read the numbers and let-

ters. One was 2349 and the other 2356 although there was the possibility that the 3 could have been a 2. Then it was on to Rockfield for an even bigger surprise as, amongst the fulmars flying past there was a darker bird that turned out to be the much rarer so-called "blue phase" fulmar. This is a darker colour form of fulmar, commoner in the high arctic colonies and, as an indication of its rarity, I have only ever seen three before. One in south east Iceland, one on St Kilda and one on North Rona. When I did get back to a telephone the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge informed me that the two neck rings had been put on the swans in eastern Iceland in 1994 by a group of ringers from Denmark. A letter has gone to the ringers concerned so that I can get more details, especially as the neck rings could have been read elsewhere in the birds travels. How interesting that the air-mail letter to Denmark was only 25p. RAY COLLIER

## Fratricide among the Christians

AT the risk of scandalising (or boring to death) your readers with division among Christians, I must take exception to Tim Montgomerie's caricature of Christian socialism (Letters, April 10). He may see "clear Bible teaching" on every contentious moral issue — indeed the magazine of the Conservative Christian Fellowship has enough articles about homosexuality to produce an annual even in Peter Tatchell — but others do not. The point he has missed is that from the reformation is not a doctrinaire, fundamentalist corpus of beliefs, to be imposed in some nightmarish theocratic future. The Labour Party is not a Christian Party nor should it be. If it is to be the People's Party it must seek to embrace those of all faiths and none at all. However, it is equally unacceptable to deny the right of any person of faith to seek inspiration or direc-

tion from their religious convictions. Tony Blair should be congratulated for providing an ethical and intellectual underpinning of his personal political credo, which stands in sharp contrast to the weak and rudderless leadership the country is presently enduring. David Cairns, Co-ordinator, Christian Socialist Movement, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1E 9JF.

IN THE second century AD, St Justin Martyr wrote about Christians: "They marry as men do and begot children, but they do not practice abortion."

How does Mr Blair square his Christian beliefs with his voting record concerning abortion? Ian Ellis, The Meadows, Flintshire CH6.

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See com  
Comment  
Hugo Young

Jill Morro  
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Diary  
Matthew Norman

THE mystery about TAM (Truth and Accuracy in the Media) — the Hollywood-based group whose newsletter and website invite subscribers to report journalists to a blacklist — deepens by the hour. Could this anonymous body be a front, we wonder, for the Church of Scientology? Last July, the Scientologists launched the Campaign for Public Reform of Media Abuses, waiting a full two months before starting the extremely different FACT (Fairness and Accuracy Campaign for Truth in the Media). Founded by the late L. Ron Hubbard (son of L. Mother Hubbard) the church famously hates media attention, and even more famously has major Hollywood figures like Tom Cruise, Demi Moore and John Travolta as members. On this circumstantial evidence, it looks a fair cop — and yet, at the Scientology HQ (a mansion in East Grinstead), Rachel Ryerson denies it. Is she correct? Or are there Scientologist impersonators on the loose in California? We will endeavour to find out.

WHETHER I may be, I will be reporting myself to TAM for the second time: first it was the Peter Dinklage incident, now it's the price of Major, Major (Memories of an Older Brother), the new book of the month. Terry Major-Ball's classic work (out in paperback very soon) will be £6.99, an even better bargain than I suggested. Terry lives in Australia on Saturday, for the Melbourne Flower Show, and we hope to have a farewell chat with him tomorrow. Until then, a short extract — the final lines of chapter one — must suffice. Soon after, John comes PM, Terry pops in to 10 Downing Street one lunchtime and is invited to stay for a meal. "As we sat down — John, Norma and myself — I had to confess that I couldn't manage lunch," writes Terry, "because I had just bought a pie at Victoria Street. I had a good chat with them, however, and a very nice cup of tea."

THE march in protest against the Job Seeker's Allowance in central London on Tuesday was a classic of the genre. A handful of hooded militants raced dramatically into the wrong building (the old Department of Employment HQ at Caxton House, abandoned by ministers after the merger with the Home Office) and scattered leaflets at the bemused staff of a private company. While these brave souls rushed upstairs to confront ministers (on what would have been the wrong floor, anyway, had the ministers been there), supporters outside the building shouted slogans aimed at Michael Howard. Whatever we may think of Mr Howard, and there are arguments to be made either way, he indisputably ceased to be employment minister in 1990.

FOR independent journalists sacked by Mirror Group Newspapers in recent months comes cheering news of a former colleague. A financial news service reports that, on a recent morning, thanks to the power of the share option, David Montgomery sold on 500,000 MGN shares for an instant profit of £780,000. Whether because of such financial success or for the subtlety of his business philosophy, Monty has also been made a Companion of the Institute of Management. It is richly deserved.

REPORTS that Labour is preparing a more lenient, Murdoch-friendly approach to cross-media ownership have come as no surprise to West Highland terrier Stephen. Europe's top-ranked canine sportsbayer (despite challenges from imposters Mystic Nutt and the astrologer Jack Russell Grant) forecast such a move in his New Year predictions. He forecast that New Labour would announce an annual subsidy of £1.6 billion to News International at the party conference. It's come a little early and the minor detail is a shade different, but even so... that hound is quite uncanny.



# See Major's friends come out to play

## Commentary Hugo Young

THE Conservatives are not dead. In fact, they're looking up. A year ago, something cataclysmic seemed about to happen. The great party was becoming anathema not only to its enemies but to its friends. It almost didn't have any friends. The Daily Mail was writing it out of the script. Yesterday, even, it met down, beckoned. It still does. The by-election today will be bad. The polling figures continue to show a nation-wide Tory deficit of 30 per cent. But the household gods turn out not to have lost their power. The evidence is impressive. So is the reason for it.

Tory money is coming home. And the allies are returning to their posts in the columns of the press. The 50th anniversary of the 1945 election is a commitment, of people whom the Labour Party presents as its new friends but who, in truth, detest the imminent prospect of a Blair victory as much as they detest the Tories. Another commitment, of people whom the Labour Party presents as its new friends but who, in truth, detest the imminent prospect of a Blair victory as much as they detest the Tories. Another commitment, of people whom the Labour Party presents as its new friends but who, in truth, detest the imminent prospect of a Blair victory as much as they detest the Tories.

...to behave like lemmings, began to revert to type. They haven't given up. Their fortitude in the Conservative Inquiry tells one as much about the state of politics as that which chartered phenomenon, the voters' desertion. The message is instructive about the skin-deep meaning of Tory Blair. Last month, the Tories announced that in a year they'd taken them at the box office. For all-at-time flop, never before so consistently rejected by the people, this was an extraordinary achievement. Philip Harris, a career politician twice over, has served a party treasurer whose ill-fated business career can't be said to have prospered. Now another army, of Peter Gummer and Tim Bells and British Airways and Dixons and shiny mega-beneficiaries of Thatcherism, is moving into the lists. One thing the Tories won't be short of at the election is cash. Another is commitment, of people whom the Labour Party presents as its new friends but who, in truth, detest the imminent prospect of a Blair victory as much as they detest the Tories.

...the politics of class and money have not evaporated under Blair's ministrations. True, he is tolerated by the business world. He spends long hours showing his understanding. And the City can see as well as anyone the way the wind is blowing and needs to prepare accordingly. These people, after all, will have to live with Mr Blair. But the notion that they might in any way desire him is an illusion, part of his smooth ascent into seemingly universal approbation. What it really proves is how much this sleight-of-mind is Blair's own work. Many businessmen disdain all politicians, and the competitive business culture is unlikely to make a nature hero out of John Major, who shows many regrettable marks of a wimpish failure. But in their world, Major has delivered. The absence of the feel-good factor doesn't apply to them. A widespread sense of personal insecurity may blight the political pay-off which ministers think they deserve for their brilliant record of low inflation and steady export-led growth. But it is perfectly acceptable to the employing classes. Against it stands a prospect of Labour that no cold-eyed capitalist could conceivably welcome: higher social costs,

...the political class that the attitude of the business class seems a gross paradox. Alternative conclusions suggest themselves. One is that business, not for the first time, is out of touch. Perhaps these are lessons after all, throwing shareholders' money over the cliff into the arms of ministers who have done them lots of favours. They don't, after all, have much to lose. If Labour does win their party's social penalties, tax aside, will not be great. Labour needs business a great deal more than business needs Labour, and the Blair people want to see Blair to remove Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways or Sir Stanley Kalms of Dixons off the influence carousel. But there's another, more telling explanation. It lies in what the Tories are saying, and is underpinned by the one polling detail that gives comfort to the Tories, which is a sizeable fall in the number of voters who charge them with economic incompetence. Other things yes, the economy not quite so much. This is what the business world will fight for. Don't let Labour run it. There's a plausible truth in that, though the voters are thinking about other things like mistrust and insecurity and the decline of public services. It also tells you why the Tory press, after four years spent trying to destroy Major, will make a fight of it on his behalf. In the end, Labour's world has rather little to offer them. Major's conviction that he's been right about the economy, with figures to prove it, provides a platform from which they can come out swinging the old punches. However bad South Staffs looks tonight, it is worth remembering that they will.

# Jill Morrell argues that the continued imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four is a grave ongoing injustice which Michael Howard must have the courage to quash

## Untrue confessions

LAST NIGHT'S Rough Justice programme called the efficiency of our judicial system to account yet again with its examination of the case of the four men imprisoned since 1979 for the murder of Carl Bridgewater. During their 15 years in prison, new evidence has proved these men innocent over and over again. Yet the Home Office seems determined to uphold these convictions in the face of all the facts. The irony for the men and their families, and for those campaigning for them, is that the longer the case drags on, the more embarrassing it will be for the Government when it is eventually referred back to the Court of Appeal, yet the more embarrassing it becomes, the harder it is to persuade them to do so. When the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six cases collapsed, we were assured that lessons had been learned and there would be no repetition of such scandals. Yet this miscarriage of justice, the last of the notorious injustices cases of the 1970s, features the same endless secret police investigations that led nowhere and the same revelations of crucial information years after it should have been disclosed to the defence at the original trial. Five years after the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice was set up, there is still no sign of the establishment of the independent review authority legislated for last year. Yet if ever there was a case that ought to be dealt with by the review authority, the Bridgewater case is it.



very weak — there was no forensic evidence, no general prints, no murder weapon, or stolen property which linked the men to the crime. Given the extremely powerful effect of Molloy's confession, it's perhaps understandable how the jury came to convict them. Since then, however, the validity of Molloy's confession has been demolished and most of the verbal evidence disproved or discredited.

At the time of reading Paul Foot's book I was involved in a campaign to try to secure the release of my former boyfriend, John McCarthy, who had been kidnapped in Lebanon. Although John's circumstances and that of the "Bridgewater Four", as they had become known, were completely different, all were victims of wrongful imprisonment. All had found themselves in a nightmare of circumstances from which there seemed no way out. I identified with the struggle of Anne Whelan, the mother of Michael Hickey, who had been fighting for 10 years just to persuade people to listen to her. Our campaigns had come up against the same walls of official indifference. But whereas my own campaign could call on our own government to help John, the Bridgewater Four had been found guilty in a British court and they had the entire weight of their own government against them. It is hard to imagine the deep sense of isolation they must feel. The only way Michael Hickey, the youngest of the four, could make his voice heard was to mount a

roof-top protest to declare his innocence. It was the longest roof-top protest ever, through the coldest winter in living memory, and it nearly killed him. In 1988-89 the case was heard at the Court of Appeal. At that time it was unthinkable that people convicted by a British court could be innocent and that confessions could be fabricated. Yet only a few months later the Guildford Four walked free from the Court of Appeal, after famous cases revealing miscarriages of justice followed.

The Court of Appeal takes a different view of confessions these days. He view was that Molloy's confession was not relevant to the conviction of the other three men and the appeal failed. Yet the original foreman of the jury, Tim O'Malley, has stated publicly that Molloy's confession was crucial to the men's conviction and that he now believes the men to be innocent. One could ask what plainer proof there could be that a verdict is unsafe, but last night's Rough Justice provided an answer. It included the powerful revelation that even the lawyer who prosecuted the four men in 1979 has urged the Home Secretary to reopen the case. The prosecutor, Michael Chance, wrote to Michael Howard expressing concern over an error in the conduct of the prosecution — namely the period in which he made his non-disclosure to the defence confession, he was interviewed on at least 15 occasions without legal representation. prints found on Carl Bridgewater's bike. At the time of the murder the police regarded these fingerprints as extremely important and contacted 34 police forces in a attempt to discover who had left them. The fingerprints

match none of the four convicted men, and proved that another person had been present at the crime. Their existence could have formed a major part of the defence case but it was not disclosed until nearly 16 years after they were taken to prosecuting court. Lenight's programme also revealed new evidence relating to Molloy's confession, before that the plates of his false teeth were broken by one of the men. Former submissions to the Home Office have involved the evidence of language expert who show that Molloy's confession was not in his own words but almost certainly dictated to him. The Home Office's own appointed language expert agreed with the findings, but a secret inquiry overrode this. A particular problem for prosecutors was that witnesses who changed their accounts they gave at the trial of how Molloy's confession was taken.

The new evidence focuses on a different point: that his confession could not possibly have been taken down at the speed stated by the police. This adds to the weight of evidence concentrated on the treatment of Michael Howard's commitment to justice is in question. He has not yet made a final decision about the case, so there is still a chance that he will equal the courage of the men and their families and let the case be heard in open court.

Jill Morrell is the author of The Wrong Man (Bridgewater Four Support Group)

# Bar-stool wisdom on a royal dilemma



Natasha Walter

CERTAIN newspapers have been treating the changing appearance of Princess Diana's face with the kind of bogged concentration more understandable given to a change of government. The story began when the People magazine page scoop out of blurry photographs showing her in short shorts, in which her thighs looked rather dimpled. The horror that these pictures engendered was something like the impact of a century portraits with death's head lurking in the corner: even beautiful princesses get old; even Diana is mortal. As the Mail put it, "there is a real power in any sphere, they can easily resist the traditional aversion to ageing. Most older women in the public eye, from Kate Adlie to Margaret Thatcher to Anita Roddick, never have to endure the vile carping that Diana receives. They possess in real and solid, cultural or political or economic force that bears no relation to their appearance, and is therefore unimpeded by the marks of time on their skin."

Similarly, Emma Thompson can play the 19-year-old heroine of Sense and Sensibility at the age of 38 because she is not only an acclaimed actress, but also wrote the script, and so has a powerful stake in the creation of the film. Anna Ford, Joan Bakewell and Joanna Lumley remain on television into their 50s because of the respect given to their work: the first generation of women to keep their power on television as they age. But the tabloids can make a story out of Diana's thighs because, unlike such women, her power rests upon her husband and her beauty. Her desire for an ambassadorial role seems to have come to nothing, and she is losing her place in the royal family. As a traditionally feminine, dependent woman, she is still vulnerable to such criticism. It is only when women free themselves from such dependency that they are able to present their ageing on their own terms.

The moral of the story is not that women have already lost the battle to power: it is not through posing for cameras in bikinis or through the power of one's husband. If Diana found some real work and a respected role for herself, her ankle-length coat would be read less as a sign of embarrassment and more as a normal desire for warmth.

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Richard Condon

# Un-American activity

**B**ACK IN the late 1950s, Richard Condon's mid-life crisis took tangible form as three duodenal ulcers. At that time Condon, who has died aged 81, was a successful Hollywood publicist. His wife told him that either he did something else or he would chew up his entire intestinal tract. So, in 1959, his first novel, *The Oldest Confession*, was published. The paperback rights went within a fortnight and the film rights within a month. The ensuing film *The Happy Thieves* with Rita Hayworth and Rex Harrison, was dreadful. By then it didn't matter. Condon's second novel, *The Manchurian Candidate*, published in 1959, imbued the writer with a cult status that persisted through his subsequent career.

Condon produced 24 successful novels in the years that followed, including *An Infinity of Mirrors* (1964), *Mile High* (1968) and *Winter Kills* in 1974; but it was only in the early eighties, with the darkly funny mafia novel — and movie — with Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner and Anjelica Huston — *Prizzi's Honor* (followed by *Prizzi's Family* and *Prizzi's Glory*, where the organisation finally takes the White House) that the *Candidate's* long shadow was lifted. *The Manchurian Candidate* was a child of McCarthyism

and the Cold War. It dealt with Raymond Shaw, an American prisoner-of-war brainwashed in Korea, who returns to the United States primed for a political assassination. At the time Condon wrote it, the red-baiting senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy, had just died and his legacy was an open wound on the American body politic and a presence in his mind.

By 1982, the novel had become a John Frankenheimer-directed film with Laurence Harvey, Angela Lansbury and Frank Sinatra. It was, Condon observed later, the "sweetest translation" ever made between one of his books and the screen.

*The Manchurian Candidate* novel, born of fifties' preoccupations, was refracted through the cusp into sixties' film images, witty, scaring, and, as it turned out with JFK's assassination in 1963, coldly prophetic. Where there had been a tortured Laurence Harvey on screen, there was Lee Harvey Oswald — "I'm just a Patsy" — in Dallas.

Apart from 18 months in Los Angeles, Condon spent the first 42 years of his life in his native New York. He grew up in Washington Heights, across the East River from Manhattan. The heights then was a melting pot for Germans, Italians and the Irish. His geographical situation paralleled Condon's development as a

writer, an amused, acerbic realist watching the great powers of society at work, but from a distance.

The meeting point between politics, crime and money was an abiding obsession. He saw the political spectacle of American life. He told me in the late eighties, as an endless series of beautifully-decorated river barges. "Around the bend comes the Joe McCarthy barge. Everybody is interested, they applaud, and it slips out of sight downstream. Or you get the Iran-Contra

novels, and into the plugging booths. Two years later, he was going round the world as a writer on a cruise line; plus as a lift operator and hotel clerk followed.

By the late thirties, he was an advertising copywriter. In 1938 he married Evelyn Hunt — a "Powers Girl" — and through her, via a film called *The Powers Girl*, he entered the movie business as a publicist. He spent more than five years at Disney followed by 20th Century Fox. He worked, he said, for every studio apart from MGM and Warner.

With his success as a writer, Condon and his family set off across the world. During the ensuing three decades they lived in Mexico, Switzerland, France and Ireland before settling in Dallas in 1980. Between *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Prizzi's Honor* — for which he wrote the screenplay — his record in the movies was mixed.

The Beatles bought and dropped *A Talent For Loving* in the mid-sixties. In 1975 *Winter Kills*, an eminently-plausible fantasia on the Kennedy assassination, became a film with Jeff Bridges as the presidential assassin and Condon's friend, John Huston, as the murderous family patriarch. It ran into "distribution difficulties" and closealmost as it opened.

The novels continued into the nineties, with *The Final Addiction*, featuring a character with some faint resemblances to Dan Quayle, in 1991 and *Prizzi's Money* in 1993. Condon did not boast any specialist knowledge of the Mafia; anyone who was in American show-business, he believed, would make contacts of a sort. And then there was his experience of New York during his first four decades.

There was an awful lot of larceny there, he thought. They were people who talked fast, moved fast, thought in terms of sharp angles, wasted fast, and where they went the country followed. Just as the Mafia was another part of the spectacle, in the barges with politicians, legitimate business and television anchormen.

Times had changed since the days of his youth and Tammany Hall, cigar-chewing politicians, he told me. "The costume is so much better. Today they are so much more — well, like beautiful bookers. As for me, I'm for home and mother and all those good qualities." He laughed. "I've just been disillusioned."

Richard Condon is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Richard Condon... 'I'm for home and mother. I've just been disillusioned'

Hugh Falkus

# A river runs through it

**O**NE OF my treasured memories of Hugh Falkus, who has died aged 78, is of him standing on the bank of the River Eak during the making of his film, *Sabno The Leaper*, for the BBC's Natural History Unit.

Hugh, then aged 60, was demonstrating why falling into deep water, fully clothed and weighed down with eight books, should hold no terrors. This did not faze him into the icy torrent and, to the crew's astonishment, show how to survive. Several viewers subsequently claimed that the lesson saved their lives.

Although he was an outstanding fisherman, and author of definitive works such as *Salmon Fishing and Trout Fishing*, it was as a wildlife broadcaster and filmmaker that I came to know Hugh Falkus. His involvement with the Natural History Unit in Bristol arose out of his friendship with Niko Tinbergen, professor of animal behaviour at Oxford, who was studying gulls close to where Hugh had his home in the Eak valley.

Hugh, who had formed his own wildlife film company after the second world war, saw the opportunity to make television programmes. Although a Nobel prizewinner and fellow of the Royal Society, Tinbergen was an amateur when it came to photography, and discovered in Hugh a skilled communicator who could craft stories out of his film.

In the early 1960s, he made *The Sign Readers* and *The Gull Watchers*. The mixture of simply-observed behaviour and lucid storylines spoken by Hugh was fresh and inspiring. But the film which marked the apogee of his partnership with Tinbergen was *Signals For Survival*, about the behaviour and social structure in a raven colony on a lesser black-backed gull.

The editor knew that viewers might find it difficult to watch 50 minutes of gull behaviour, but, such was the faith in Hugh's talent to craft

a structure to the storyline, that the project went ahead. When broadcast in December 1960, as part of BBC's new series, *The World About Us*, it was a triumph. It was recognised as a masterly exposition on animal communication through the analysis of the postures and voice of one kind of bird, and won the Prix Italia and a Blue Riband Award at the American Film Festival. Hugh refused to pick up the prize because "he couldn't stand bullshit" — yet he was enormously pleased that it beat an Apollo moon-landing documentary.

Hugh then made a string of wildlife films, including *The Riddle Of The Rook*, *The*

*Beachcombers* and the autobiographical *Self-Portrait Of A Happy Man*. He also became the voice of the French diver when he rewrote and narrated 40 episodes of *The Undersea World Of Jacques Cousteau*. A brief association with Oxford Scientific Films resulted in *The Tender Trap*, an internationally-acclaimed look at carnivorous plants.

To observe Hugh working on his scripts, soft pencil and rubber always with him, searching for the precise combination of words that would clinch a story, was inspirational. "My dear Johnny," he would say, "there are three rules to script-writing: use simple words, write with rhythm and add a touch of alliteration."

He was born south-west of London, brought up on the Essex Marshes and in Devon. As a Spitfire pilot during the second world war, his squadron was on scrambled so early that he flew in his pyjamas, shot down two German bombers over France, went for a third, and was shot down himself. Thanks to his non-military dress, he eventually faced Gestapo firing squad on riverbank, and in defiance turned to watch a trout rise for flies. His captors hesitated and he was rescued by a passing senior German air officer. His adventures continued as prisoner-of-war, inner-digger, escapee, sailor, and, feature-film director, sportsman and artist.

Hugh wrote an narrated series of *Wor About Us* films, including *Wor About Us* and *Day Of The Sea*, and in 1976 I worked closely with him on *The Killers Trade*, which showed preators in action and explored the relationship between, killing for food, murder warfare. Hugh had killed a sandfly, which had been living in fighting, and felt these could pronounce with authority on the subject.

I filmed him against the backdrop of hills at surrounded his home Crags Cottage. It was a wonderful piece about the catastrophic nature of modern warfare. Afterwards, he said: "God Johnny, that'll give 'em something to think about. And it did. After transmission I got a letter from the sixth year of TV Centre instructing me to wipe the tape — much to the Hugh's amusement."

Hugh hated authority and did not suffer fools at a but, despite his robust opinions, he was a man of artistic integrity, moral courage and intellectual honesty.

**John Sparks**  
Hugh Edward Lance Falkus, writer and naturalist, born May 15, 1917; died March 30, 1996



Best friends... Falkus with his dog, Prince

Jean Burroughs

# Partner in peace

**J**EAN Burroughs, who has died aged 65, was the founder of Education Partners Overseas, an autonomous education partnership in Tanzania with the local ministry of education and culture.

Burroughs was born in Chiswick, west London, where her family had lived for three generations. Three aunts, from whom she inherited her dynamism and determination, had been suffragettes. As a young woman, she was selected for county hockey and cricket teams.

Later, she developed a passion for camping, travel and for mechanised transport, beginning modestly with a scooter, then motor bike, followed by a succession of cars, the speedier the better. At one point, she nearly decided to go on the stage. Instead, she trained at Goldsmith's College, London, as a teacher.

She reached the height of her career in the 1960s as founder head of Fulham Cross girls' comprehensive school in west London. The start was inauspicious following a diffi-

cult amalgamation with low morale amongst pupils and disaffection amongst staff. But with persistence, Burroughs raised levels of expectation, improved examination results, broadened the curriculum, developed community relations — and left the school over-subscribed. A new technology wing was evidence of her commitment to equal opportunities and her educational vision.

She was dedicated to the rights of young people and her crowning achievement was to ensure that her work will continue to benefit future generations. In preparation for her intended retirement, she ensured a continuing pivotal role for Education Partners Overseas by negotiating grant aid from the Overseas Development Administration, and a merger from May 1996 with the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges.

**Peter Mann**  
Jean Burroughs, educationist, born January 31, 1931; died February 21, 1996

Alan Iiffe

# Heart of the grey matter

**A**LAN IIFFE, who has died aged 77, was a distinguished psychologist, a brilliant teacher — at Keele University — and a founder of the Society for Research into Higher Education.

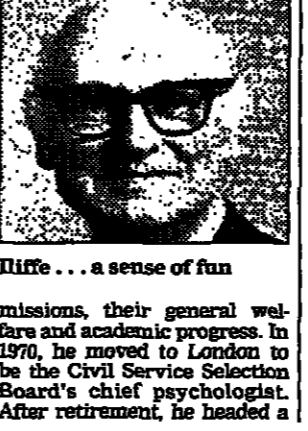
By 1940, he had joined the army straight from school, and ended up on the beach at Dunkirk. Later, he won a first-class degree at Reading University via a fast-track, ex-servicemen's educational scheme and was invited to join the university staff.

In 1961, he was asked to initiate psychology teaching at the newly-founded university college at Keele. By 1964, he had become senior tutor, with responsibility for student ad-

missions, their general welfare and academic progress. In 1970, he moved to London to be the Civil Service Selection Board's chief psychologist. After retirement, he headed a

Home Office unit on the selection of prison governors and senior police staff.

Gregarious, an accomplished amateur actor and an enthusiastic cricketer, Iiffe loved Anthony Trollope's novels, and resembled that author's *The Warden* in his warm human qualities; but he also had something the warden lacked, a great sense of fun. He was twice married; to Randa, by whom he had four daughters and three in Cynthia, a fellow academic.



Iiffe... a sense of fun

Jackdaw

**Socks did it**  
THANK YOU very much. Hmm, this is kind of interesting. These don't appear to be my notes. Do you have the folder I gave you? Well, where did this stuff come from? Nobody leaves stuff like this just lying around. Maybe I'll just hang on to these. OK, here we go.

Good evening Mr President. Mrs Clinton, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, radio and TV scum... You know, I think it would be fair to say that back when the Clintons took office, if we had placed them all in a line-up — well, not a line-up — if we were to have speculated on

which members of the First Family would be the first to be indicted — I mean to have received a subpoena, everybody in this room would have picked Roger. I mean: been there, done that. Well, the past three years, Socks the cat has been in more jams than Roger. Roger has been a saint. The cat has peed on national treasures. Roger hasn't. Socks has thrown up hairballs. Roger hasn't. Socks has got his girl-friend pregnant and — oh, no, that was Roger.

And as you know, nearly every incident in the lives of the First Family has been made worse by each and every person in this room, the radio and TV correspondents... My point is, there is an innocent event made sinister by some creep in the media. Although, in some cases, the Clintons have not exactly helped themselves. Imagine it, back in 1978, Mrs Clinton had not said to Mr Clinton, "Honey, Jim and Susan are here and they've got this riverfront land for some great vacation homes,

and maybe we can make some sex out of it." And he said, "God, I love this Reaganomics..." One of the things it seems to me that the media ought to think about in the coming months, particularly in this election year, is the sensibilities of the people who you cover, the way you cover them, and your treatment of them as individuals.

For, if nothing else, they are all good and decent people who, for whatever reasons, have chosen to devote the bulk of their adult lives to public service. People who possess a passion for ideas and ideals to which they have committed extraordinary energy. It is almost always irrelevant and short-sighted to seize only on the unfortunate human imperfections of people who, frankly, have demonstrated an often puzzling willingness to endure great sacrifice both personally and professionally at what they see as a noble summons to serve the greater good. More often than not, that is exactly the case.

You folks focus on each mis-step, every mis-spoken word, each testy outburst; they do not deserve some degree of respect, to be treated with the dignity that at least acknowledges the fact of their trust in them. They believe they are conducting? Shouldn't we be willing to give them some benefit of the doubt?

I don't think so.

Excerpt from a speech given by US radio talk-show host Dr. Dinus to the US Radio and Television Correspondents annual dinner, reprinted in the *New York Observer*. The audience included the Clintons.

**Look up**  
TODAY'S abduction believers have grown up in the context of the myth of extraterrestrial visitation. Where they differ from the rest of us is that they take that myth literally. Whereas you and I recognise it as myth and nothing more. Of all the myths we have created, that of visitation by other-worldly beings is the oldest and most enduring. Without divine beings descended from the

heavens, most religious belief-systems would lack the authority for their teachings, and without less kindly entities rising from the depths below, they would lack a bogeyman to scare us into accepting those teachings.

The sub-myth of alien abduction, whether seen as benign or malevolent, is a natural development of the basic myth... It is a magnificent testimony to human's inventive powers. If the abduction myth has taken so firm a hold, it is because it is rich in elements to which we can profoundly respond.

Invention, however, it manifestly is. Most of Meurgers's time is spent showing how the current abduction belief was prefigured, in detail, by fiction writers from the 17th century to the present. And don't let's have any nonsense about these authors unwittingly arising deep spiritual truths, these were hard-headed professional writers, who knew very well what they were up to, what they were making up to entertain their readers.

**Down the hatch**  
MR HOWARD PAUL, the well-known entertainer, has just brought out a little book, entitled *Dinners With Celebrities*, in which musicians play no inconsiderable part. When Mr Howard Paul dined with the late Prince Napoleon, Rossini was of the party, and the exploits of the Swan of Pesaro as a trencherman are most carefully recorded in the following passage: "The spaghetti was the finest I ever remember to have tasted, and small wonder that Rossini enjoyed two helpings. I observed that he ate sparingly up to this course, refusing the *tournefos*, passing the *potatoes*, and picking lightly the breast of a woodcock. He was evidently reserving his grand coup for the Italian dish, which he demolished with gusto. The old methodist never forgot his early taste, and macaroni, polenta, ravioli, spaghetti, and vermicelli were invariably to be found on the table of his villa at Passy." In another chapter we glean the momentous information that Rossini — in his later years, at any rate — rarely ate any breakfast. As for Wagner, he dispatched his meals with the velocity of a Flying Dutchman: "I observed that he ate exceedingly fast. It was like posting letters. He placed his food in his mouth, and down it went while he

Birthdays

Karen Briggs, judo champion, 33; Sir Raymond Carr, Spanish historian, 77; Gertrude de Peyer, clarinetist, 70; Clive Exton, scriptwriter, 66; James Ferman, secretary, British Board of Film Classification, 66; Ronald Fraser, actor, 66; Jill Gascoine, actress, 59; Georgina Godley, fashion designer, 41; Joel Grey, actor, 64; Dr Roger Knight, deputy director, National Maritime Museum, 52; Derek Martin, actor, 63; Dame Ayril Peel, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 60; Leo C. Rosten, political scientist, creator of Hyman Kaplan, 88; Lisa Stansfield, singer, 30; Richard Watnwright, former Liberal MP, 78.

Death Notices

**CLOUGH**, Gordon, writer and broadcaster, peacefully at home on April 8th, aged 81. Much loved by his wife, Carolyn, and children, Jonathan, Penny, Elizabeth and Eleanor, son of Annie, brother of Peter, grandfather of three, and great-grandfather of five. Family burial in St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN.

**MACDONALD**, Norrie (BESS) on 8th April 1996 after a long illness with grace and courage. Much loved by her husband, Ian, and children, Ian, Victoria and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. Services at West Hill Methodist Church, 11 West Hill, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN.

**THOMAS**, David, April 8th 1996. Suddenly at Arroyo Park Hospital aged 84 years. Much loved by his wife, Margaret, and children, John, Victoria and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. Services at West Hill Methodist Church, 11 West Hill, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN.

**WATSON**, David, April 8th 1996. Suddenly at Arroyo Park Hospital aged 84 years. Much loved by his wife, Margaret, and children, John, Victoria and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. Services at West Hill Methodist Church, 11 West Hill, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN.

Marriages

**TO ALL** in the Guardian Advertising Department, 3rd April 1996 aged 48, following a short illness. Funeral services on Friday 12th April 1996 at 11.30am at St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN. Donations to St. George's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW10 6JN.

**Jackdaw wants your jewels.** E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-734 4866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

**Dan Glaister**

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Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
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# Finance Guardian

## Taxpayers face £50m bill

### High Court move threatens TECs

Simon Savaris and Chris Barrie

**T**AXPAYERS could end up paying an estimated \$50 million back to the Government's Training and Enterprise Councils if the Inland Revenue loses an intense legal battle which reaches the High Court next month.

The case — which has only now come to light in documents seen by the Guardian — threatens to turn the Government's training system on its head and could bring about the biggest changes to the TECs in their six-year history.

The High Court finds they are charities they will be eligible for multi-million pound tax reliefs.

When TECs were created in the late 1980s, the Government received legal advice that the councils were not and could never be charities.

relief and exemption from VAT, the change is likely to bring far more damaging effects, not least because of the onerous liabilities on directors of TECs.

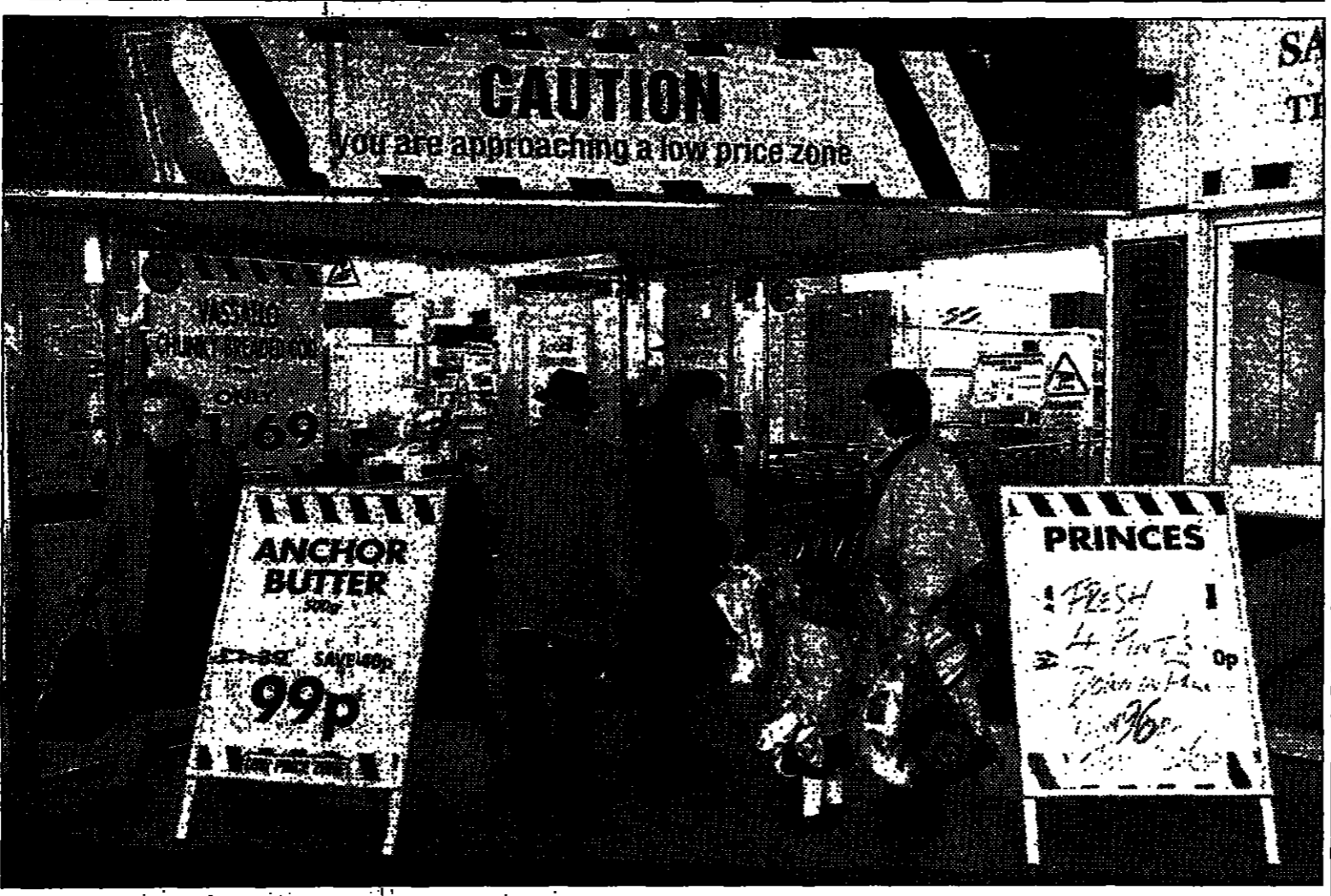
warned all TECs to seek legal advice about the "significant" implications of the case, its briefing note warns TECs that they will need to ensure they have not in the past acted in a way that would be a breach of charitable trust.

### Scots enjoy best quality of life

Sarah Ryle and Tony Heath

**P**EOPLE in Scotland enjoy the best quality of life in Britain, according to a survey published today which shows that the cost of living across the country is rising at its slowest rate for three years.

The cheapest place to live in Britain during the last 12 months was Merthyr Tydfil in south Wales, says the research group, Reward.



Bargain prices... Merthyr Tydfil shoppers live in the UK's cheapest town

Nationwide, cheaper mortgages offered by lenders battling for market share helped slow the rise in day-to-day expenditures to an annual rate of 2.1 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent at the last count in August, Reward says.

rose by 5.6 per cent. This was partly offset by average fuel costs which, helped by the rebates in electricity bills at the start of this year, fell by 0.1 per cent.

The national average. But that was offset by higher wages with middle managers pay 12.9 per cent above the national norm.

the West Midlands at the bottom. Quality of life was negative compared to the national average in every region except Scotland, the North and Greater London.

housing is given a greater weighting in our index.

### EC could block £430m Lonrho merger deal

Ian King in London and Julia Wolf in Brussels

**E**U COMPETITION authorities are set to block or demand changes to the proposed \$430 million merger of Lonrho's platinum interests with those of South African mining group Genor, according to sources in Brussels.

and by South Africa's competition authorities, the Brussels competition authorities have taken a tougher line.

### Bell and bosses toll Tory virtues

Lisa Buckingham

**F**EARS that the Labour party is successfully demolishing its traditional demography among business leaders yesterday prompted a group of industrialists to splash out \$100,000 on a brochure extolling the virtues of the Government's economic policies.

who says the snapshots of Britain contained in the glossy brochure "build up a consistent picture of a strong, successful and modern economy which is forging ahead".

will draw their own conclusions for 1996/97.

ment's economic policies, he said.

### Obscure newcomer joins America's corporate pay caravan

Mark Tran in New York

**T**HE most richly rewarded executive in America last year did not come from Disney or any of the high-flying technology companies, but from Green Tree Financial, an obscure company in Minnesota that lends money to buy mobile homes.

1994, his total earnings came to \$28.5 million, and \$13.6 million the year before.

help of an outside compensation consultant, at a shareholder meeting on May 15. If the proposed plan had been operating, Mr Cross's bonus would have been dramatically lower in 1995, at \$5.2 million.

formed his own company with director Steven Spielberg and record mogul David Geffen, claims that a provision in his contract entitles him to 2 per cent of Disney's profits from products put into production subsequent to the end of his contract.

Mr Katzenberg asserts that Disney will make \$12.5 billion from the many movies, television shows and other deals he made during his 10 years at the company.

Underlying the legal dispute is the personal animosity between Mr Katzenberg and his former friend Mr Eisner, now said to despise each other despite a well publicised attempt to bury the hatchet last year.

### Notebook Enterprise and charity don't mix



Edited by Patrick Donovan

**T**HE Oldham Training and Enterprise Council can have had no idea what a can of worms it was opening when it hit on the apparently ingenious idea of applying for charitable status.

Conversely, the mark continues to suffer from interest rate blues, with the market firmly convinced that a further cut could come as early as next week's key Bundesbank meeting.

This may appear to hold out the prospect of an investment bonanza for all enterprise councils, but the reality is that if this test case results in the transformation of TECs into charities it will have a hugely damaging effect on business training throughout Britain.

On fundamentals, the relationship between the US and German currencies looks way out of kilter. But this is the never-never world of currency dealing. With heated expectations of interest rate changes building up, the greenback could yet have further to go.

### Super swizz

**T**HERE is something unedifying about politicians and business folk trying to win votes or commercial advantage by promising to link schools to the information superhighway.

Super swizz

Firstly, the liabilities of charity directors are far more onerous than those of their counterparts in a conventional business.

Now the Tories are in talks with the media magnate Rupert Murdoch about the possibility of delivering superhighway services to schools via satellite. His News Corporation is prepared to launch a special satellite and install dishes on every school roof.

Secondly, the legal uncertainty the process will cause is going to jeopardise moves to merge TECs with the Chambers of Commerce movement.

It all amounts to building a branchline to nowhere. Linking schools to the superhighway may earn kudos for politicians and business people, but it is pointless unless someone comes up with funds to provide the hardware and train teachers how to use it.

A merger would greatly strengthen and consolidate the national training movement and has the enthusiastic support of the business establishment.

Oldham should drop this action while it still has the chance.

Thirdly there is the wider question of why the taxpayer should provide any rebate for the TECs.

The greenback is still benefiting from the conviction that US interest rates are on the way back up. The market is taking its cue from last week's unexpectedly buoyant US payroll figures, which showed that the economy was growing faster than expected.

This was after all one of the flagships of Thatcherite enterprise, drawn up as a federation of self-supporting organisations to administer more than \$1.2 billion worth of government training funds a year.

The National Consumer Council, which today calls for measures to ensure that everyone has access to the superhighway, stresses the importance of training for all potential users.

It all amounts to building a branchline to nowhere. Linking schools to the superhighway may earn kudos for politicians and business people, but it is pointless unless someone comes up with funds to provide the hardware and train teachers how to use it.

It warns that without such computer links, many people will be excluded from the information society and fall to share in its benefits.

Oldham should drop this action while it still has the chance.

Political parties deserve to win credit — and votes — only when they back up voting promises with the necessary hard cash.

### Go-go greenback

**T**HE dollar continued its seemingly unstoppable rise yesterday, breaching (albeit briefly) the benchmark 1.50 level against the German mark for the first time in six months.

So far no one is committed to providing this key part of the jigsaw. Schools will need personal computers, fibre optic networks, servers and electronic overhead projectors if they are to turn the superhighway into a positive aid to teaching.

The greenback is still benefiting from the conviction that US interest rates are on the way back up. The market is taking its cue from last week's unexpectedly buoyant US payroll figures, which showed that the economy was growing faster than expected.

Political parties deserve to win credit — and votes — only when they back up voting promises with the necessary hard cash.

### Barings bondholders seek court's permission to sue

Pauline Springett

**B**ONDHOLDERS who last year lost \$100 million when merchant bank Barings collapsed yesterday for permission to sue over their losses.

include Peter Baring, former chairman of the bank, his deputy Andrew Tuckey, John Bolsover, chairman and chief executive of Barings Assets Management, and Peter Norris, chief executive of Barings investment bank.

In the firing line are three of the City's top broking houses — Cazenove, Hoare Govett, and BZW — who underwrote the bond issue. Also being targeted are 15 directors, including the non-executives, of Barings at the time of its collapse.

The Securities and Futures Authority announced last month it would be taking action against "a number of persons" over the bank's collapse. The SFA did not name those facing action, but they are believed to include several former Barings directors.

The legal action is being taken by the Barings 9.25 per cent Perpetual Noteholders Action Group (BNAG), which represents several hundred investors. The bondholders need the permission of the High Court to issue writs against Barings plc and Bishops Court Ltd, the former Barings Brothers, because both are in administration.

BNAG, which is not expecting to issue any writs before May, said the legal action related to the terms on which the \$100 million worth of bonds were issued a year prior to Barings collapse.

Underlying the legal dispute is the personal animosity between Mr Katzenberg and his former friend Mr Eisner, now said to despise each other despite a well publicised attempt to bury the hatchet last year.

"The proceedings allege a combination of omissions and untrue or misleading statements in the listing particulars," it said.

Mr Katzenberg has filed a lawsuit seeking at least that amount from Disney, contending that it failed to give him his rightful share of the profits of blockbuster films including Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, and the Lion King.

Barings crashed after rogue trader Nick Leeson, now in prison in Singapore, lost nearly \$500 million on futures dealing in the far east. The bank was taken over by Dutch financial conglomerate ING, which refused to compensate the bondholders.

TOURIST RATES — BOTH CENTS

Australia 1.8550	France 7.51	Italy 2.280	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.45	Germany 2.1250	Malta 0.54	South Africa 6.14
Belgium 45.40	Greece 31.00	Netherlands 2.4750	Spain 195.00
Canada 2.0150	Hong Kong 11.58	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.70	India 32.00	Norway 5.52	Switzerland 1.780
Denmark 8.58	Israel 4.78	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 99.000
Finland 7.57		Saudi Arabia 2.67	USA 1.4000

Last year's package for Mr Cross was no fluke. In 1994, his total earnings came to \$28.5 million, and \$13.6 million the year before.

Underlying the legal dispute is the personal animosity between Mr Katzenberg and his former friend Mr Eisner, now said to despise each other despite a well publicised attempt to bury the hatchet last year.



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Cricket Lamby pushes for Beefy

Paul Weaver reports on an old pal's act proposing Ian Botham as England supremo

AN OPINION poll last Easter weekend informed us that half the people of Britain believed in the resurrection. Now England cricketers, not to be outdone by theologians or anyone else in this season of blooming daffodils and blossoming willows, have entered the revival debate and their message is clear: Ian Botham must return.

Yesterday the Surrey pair of Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe came out in support of Botham's controversial bid to become a Test selector (Stewart, whose best years may be behind him and who is certainly no longer an automatic Test choice, may have done himself no favours).

Then, at lunchtime, Allan Lamb went one stage further. "Botham for Supremacy" was his message. There is nothing equivocal about Lamb. Asking him a question is rather like throwing him a half-millie - it comes ping-pong back over your head with the hard, harsh tones of Langebaanweg, Cape Province.



Quick delivery... Allan Lamb gives the press the benefit of his wisdom in London yesterday

The 41-year-old Lamb was speaking in a swish Knightsbridge hotel where he and Robin Smith had announced a joint testimonial match at Highclere Castle near Newbury on July 16, when an England side will face a World XI featuring Aravinda de Silva, Anil Kumble, Paul Adams, Shaun Pollock, Dennis Lillee and Malcolm Marshall.

Lamb would need to sign a contract with the Test and County Cricket Board in order to play on. But then the board could prevent him publishing his lucrative and controversial autobiography. The book is not due until September but newspaper serialisation will come before that - just in time to cause the board maximum embarrassment.

Yesterday, however, he wanted to talk about English players and he sounded a little like a supreme himself. "We have to get rid of the older players and cut playing staffs down to 16. Some players should be told their time is up - the dead wood who are blocking the system."

The main reason older players block the system, of course, is to get a benefit, usually awarded after 10 years' service as a capped player (Lamb had a reported £134,000 in 1988). The only reason dead wood hangs around after that is in the hope of a testimonial. Highclere Castle, the home of Lord and Lady Car-

Rowing One last heave for Steve

STEVE REDGRAVE, who will be attempting to win an unprecedented fourth successive Olympic rowing gold medal in Atlanta, confirmed yesterday that he plans to retire after the Games.

The 34-year-old oarsman, who has also won six world titles, said: "I have been racing now for the last 20 years and I can't see myself doing another four years' training."

"I am training hard for Atlanta to go the way we want it to go. Then I would be very happy to walk away from the sport - certainly from the competitive side."

Matthew Pinsent, with whom Redgrave defends the coxless pairs title they won in Barcelona, says he plans to carry on competing. "The 25-year-old is certainly the way I am thinking at the moment, this will be my last appearance. I have no real plans about what I will do. I will probably go into coaching at some stage, but not straight away."

Racing Sham looks real thing for Guineas

OSRA SHAM, hot favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, is well on target for her seasonal debut next week after being put through her paces on the Newmarket gallops yesterday.

Unbeaten in two starts last year, the Henry Cecil-trained filly looked in fine shape in a work-out with Storm Trooper and Altes Royale. "We're delighted with her," said owner Wafic Said's racing manager Tim Bulwer-Long. "She will run in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury on Friday week with Fat Battery aboard."

Bosra Sham is now 64, from 74, for the Guineas with Ladbrokes following further backing yesterday. William Hill offered 7-4.

The final Flamingo is the start of Cheltenham's penultimate jumping fixture of the season today, but he is opposed by only Travo and Gales Cavalier in the Mira Rada Silver Trophy Chase.

Whether that was a true reflection of the respective merits of the two horses is open to doubt, for when they met again at Aintree over an extra half-mile, Viking Flagship got his revenge in emphatic style, beating his rival by over 20 lengths.

Today's race should be a formality for Viking Flagship (3.05), who has repeatedly had the measure of Travo over six lengths behind him in the Champion Chase - and is simply different class to the other runner.

My only reservation is to wonder whether it is strictly necessary for connections to ask Viking Flagship for yet another effort this season. This will be his seventh race and fourth since February 24. One of the nicest young horses around this season is Strong Frontage (3.40), who should be up to shouldering top weight in the BFF Novice Handicap Hurdle Final.

Cheltenham (N.H.) with guide to the form

Table with race details for Cheltenham (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table with race results for Cheltenham (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and winners.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information and a list of names.

Hamilton runners and riders

Table with race details for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Fontwell National Hunt card

Table with race details for Fontwell National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and odds.

© Blinking first time today: None.



Wheeler... Faldo's caddie Fanny Sunesson measures a shot

David Davies at Augusta says that when battle commences for the green jacket at the US Masters today, the long are more blessed than the short and the tall

# Els gets set to throw the power switch

**T**HE question is, in essence, simple: the answer full of imponderables. What does it take to win the US Masters? Who, in a field of 93, has the best chance of sliding his arms into the green coat that goes to the champion come Sunday night?

For as long as the Masters has been played, and this is the 60th edition, at the Augusta National Golf Club certain players have held a huge advantage over the field. There was a time, for instance, in the Sixties, when if the title did not go to Jack Nicklaus it went to Arnold Palmer. For those two men had one thing in common: an ability to hit the ball further than anyone else. They both, of course, kept it in play as well, which made them, with Gary Player, the Big Three, the dominant players of their era.

Now the game has moved on. There is no such thing any more as a dominant player, but there is still a section of golf's society that has a demonstrable advantage when it comes to the winning of the first of the season's majors: the men with the muscles, Big Boys Inc, the power hitters who prosper enormously at certain holes at Augusta.

They are all holes where the design and the terrain mean that an elite part of the field can gain up to 50 or 60 yards off the tee on their less well-endowed brethren, which in turn means that they will be hitting much shorter clubs into the greens. The graphic (right) shows the holes and the advantages gained, but it has to be stressed that only a small proportion of the field will be able to avail themselves of the advantages offered. All

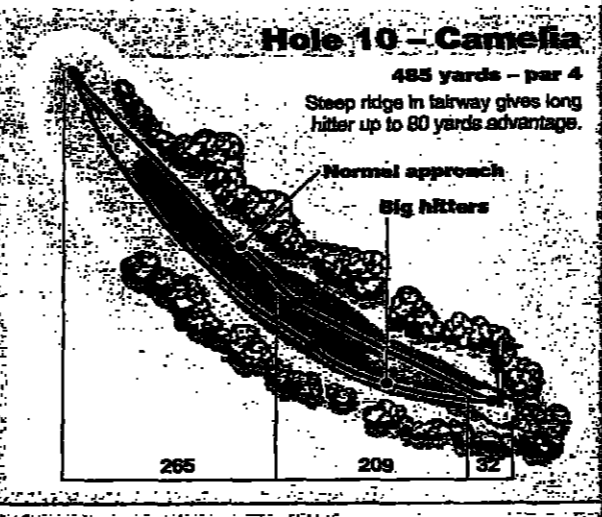
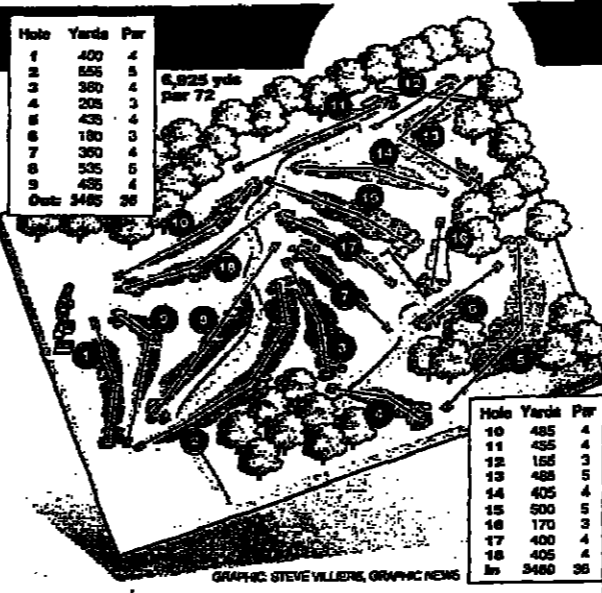
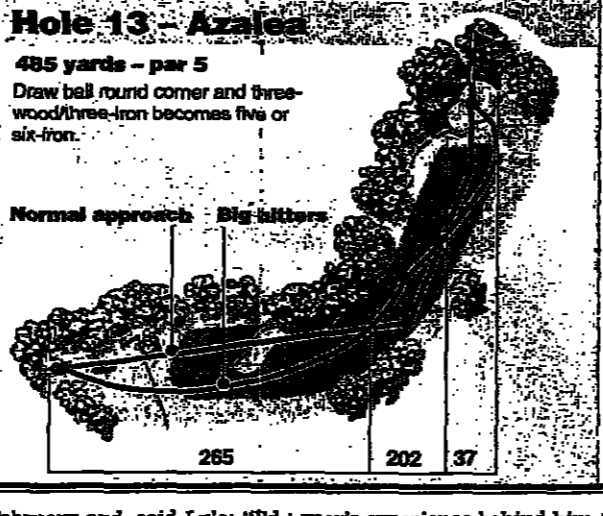
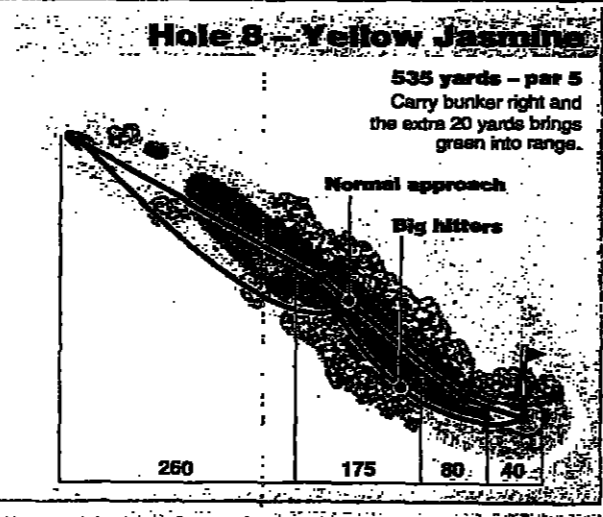
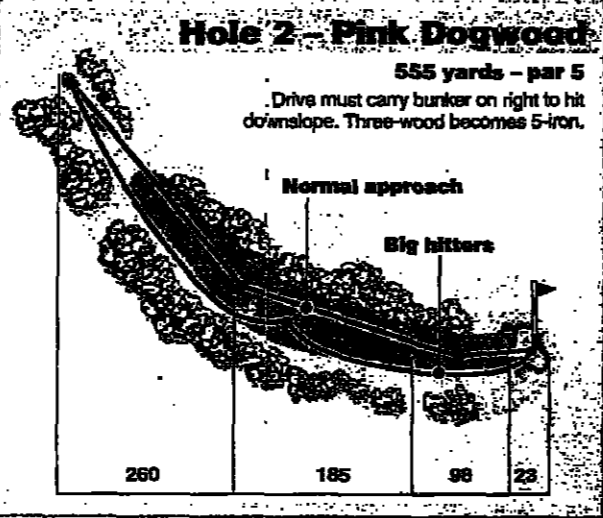
golfers are not created equal and only a few have God's gift of extreme length. It may be that an amateur will prove to be this year's longest of the long, for only yesterday Greg Norman said of Tiger Woods that he considered him able to hit the ball further than John Daly. Daly, of course, is the man of whom David Feherty said that he was so long that he had to take the curvature of the earth into consideration. Norman and Daly of course come into the right category and almost no one is longer than Davis Love III when he unwinds one — and anyone seeking to outdrive Ernie Els had better be both good and in form.

Tom Lehman, who almost beat Jose-Maria Olazabal in 1994, is a big man and belts it a long way and Ian Woosnam is a small man who hits it an incredible distance when confident. The Japanese would argue that Jumbo Ozaki is not out-distanced by anyone and the massive arc generated by Vijay Singh culminates in the ball being dispatched frightening distances.

Fred Couples may not be quite as long as he once was, for his back troubles him now and again, but he is still long enough. While Sandy Lyle, champion in 1988, feels he is longer now than then. Day in, day out, Lyle may be the longest of them all and because of that Augusta ought to suit him particularly. But he missed the cut after he won shorty clubs into the greens.

This year, though, he has an extra and a special reason for wanting to win. His father, Alex, the much-loved professional at Hawkstone Park in Shropshire, died in

## US masters 96



February and, said Lyle: "I'd love to win this for him." Lyle snr was at Augusta to witness his son's win and, said Sandy, "literally wore out the video tape in the years afterwards". Lyle is probably not far enough along the road to recovery to win this week, but all the above mentioned

There is one group that has an advantage: the men with the muscles, Big Boys Inc, who prosper enormously at Augusta

have good-to-outstanding chances. To take them in order, Woods, in theory, has no chance at all because no amateur since Bobby Jones in 1930 has won a major championship. But such eminences as Norman and Love are not prepared to write him off simply because he has such an abundant talent. Woods was the only player in '95 to carry the bunker at the 2nd hole in all four rounds and with last

year's experience behind him could be dangerous. In theory Augusta is made for Daly. A huge hitter, he can carry all the obstacles and, in theory again, there is no rough at all on the course. But Daly is occasionally so wild that he finds places not even he can recover from, and

Els, on the other hand, has won the US Open in a career that encompasses just 15 major championships. This is a man who is seriously long. The South African's season has started slowly but no one has a softer touch when things are going well: a serious contender this one. Lehman is long, and he is determined. He is certainly one of the US's better golfers and he could win. But like Woodman, who may not yet have acquired sufficient confidence, would have to be at his absolute best to end up in the green.

Ozaki's chance is purely theoretical. His game is perfectly suited; his attitude not so. He hates competing outside Japan and plays Augusta mostly because various contracts ask for it. Finally Singh and Couples. It may be that the latter used up all his luck at Augusta when he won in 1992, the year his ball defied gravity and refused to run down a shallow bank into Rae's Creek. Anyway, since then a frailty has crept into his game over the short putts, and there are plenty of those at Augusta. Singh is a different story. He or Colin Montgomerie may be the best golfer never to have won a major, and what a story it would be in this racially conscious state of Georgia if the tall Fijian were to become Masters champion.

## Trigger happy to shoot for stars

Helen Smyth talks to Sheffield's Mark Roe, who is counting his blessings as the most unlikely competitor at the Masters

**M**ARK ROE was opening his post on Christmas Eve when he came across "a lovely, cream envelope with beautiful scrolling". Intrigued, he looked at the postmark and thought: "Now who do I know in Georgia?" It was his Masters invitation. "That was when it sank in that I was really going," said Roe, who earned his place in characteristically unlikely fashion in the middle of his worst season as a professional. The 33-year-old from Sheffield had tied for 13th place in the US Open at Chippewack Hills, which meant automatic qualification for Augusta. "I've been getting more and more excited the closer it gets," said Roe, "but then you start worrying — don't fall down the stairs, don't twist an ankle, don't break a finger. I'm so excited."

would be on each day, his feelings and thoughts about the place. "Just breathing is a joy for me these days. In March last year he was such an emotional mess that he sat in his attic with a loaded shotgun. In his month, thinking how easy it would be to end it all. Instead, he put the gun away — his peers call him Trigger now — and sorted out his life. He told Jane, his wife for 16 years, that he had fallen in love with someone else. "The hardest thing was coming to terms with the fact that I would be hurting someone I'd love," Roe said. "It was the lowest point in my life."

They are now divorced. "It hasn't been a nasty, angry, little divorce. Neither of us wanted it to drag on" — and he has settled down with Julia Morris, the new woman in his life. The mess is tidier now. "I don't like grey areas," said Roe, one of whose passions is auctions and rummage shops around antique shops. "I've always been

very clinical. I like everything to be in place and for about a year it wasn't like that. My whole life was upside down." The 1994 season had been his best: victory in the French Open, ninth in the Volvo Order of Merit, hopes of a Ryder Cup place — and suddenly it was gone. Golf became unimportant and unplayable. He finished 126th on the 1995 money list. The only bright spot was that unexpected showing in the US Open, the minor miracle that has brought him here, ready to attend to the problem of coping with 12-foot putts with 15 feet of break — something he encountered at the 4th last Sunday. Roe will probably have to face many such conundrums in Augusta. He has missed the cut in five of his six outings this year and a best finish of 34th equal in the Portuguese Open last month means he is not expected to bother the bookmakers. But he does not care. Life is sweet and he wants to play golf again.

## Ice Hockey

### Referee under fire as Britain blow hot then blow out

**T**ony Allen in Eindhoven

THE Great Britain coach Peter Woods had few good words for the Finnish referee after the 6-5 defeat by Latvia, the tournament favourites, in the opening game of the World Championship Pool B. Britain, 5-3 ahead at one point, fell to a decisive goal by Aleksandr Belavitskiy midway through the final period while playing one man short. "The refereeing was a bit

one-sided and the penalty that led to their winning goal was something of a mystery call," said Woods. "We had nine penalties while they had only two. If you spend all the time killing penalties it will catch up with you. The refereeing was a major factor." Latvia took the lead with a powerplay goal by Leonidas Fambujevs in the 17th minute but Paul Adey levelled the score from a rebound almost immediately after the net-

## Athletics

# Jackson to reconsider BAF boycott

Duncan Mackay

**P**ARENTAL pressure seems certain to force Colin Jackson to reconsider his decision to boycott most of the big domestic meetings this summer, he said yesterday. However, he will not seek a reconciliation with Peter Radford, the chief executive of the British Athletic Federation. Jackson, the 110-metres hurdles world record holder, is ready to reverse his decision never to compete in a meeting organised by the BAF while Radford is in his present position. He believes he was humiliated by Radford at a meeting last summer. "My mum and nan are screaming at me to run because my nan doesn't have satellite television and she is worried she will never see me run otherwise," said the Welshman. Jackson's only scheduled appearances in Britain this summer are the Welsh Games next month and the Olympic trials in Birmingham in June. But he will meet with officials from the BAF promotions unit next week when he returns from races in Cape Town and Johannesburg. "I will be meeting the promotions people who know how strongly I feel on the issue," he said at the Visa Olympic sponsorship launch in London. "If they can understand the problems I had last year that is the key thing. The BAF and the public would like to see me competing, so there is a lot to think about."

Jackson's relationship with Radford, however, appears fractured beyond repair. "Peter Radford had better not approach me because there's no way I'll sit down and talk with him," he said. Things came to a head during the world championship trials last July when Jackson, running in the 100m, pulled out injured after the heats and then turned up in Italy the next day to run in a hurdles race. At a later meeting Jackson claimed Radford treated him like a schoolboy and "was usually accused of lying about the injury". The controversy resulted in Jackson failing to defend his world title in Gothenburg. "When you are ill and injured and someone comes into the federation and tries to walk all over you, all the frustrations come to a head," said Jackson. "I have calmed down in myself but what happened last year still sticks in my mind. It's not enough for Peter Radford to apologise because sometimes saying sorry just isn't enough." Even if he does make his peace with the BAF, it is too late for him to compete in Britain's flagship meeting, the IAAF Grand Prix event at Crystal Palace on July 12. He will have left for Atlanta to finalise preparations for his attempt on the one title that has so far eluded him.

## Rugby League

# Fairbank cup place in danger

Paul Fitzpatrick

**K**ARL FAIRBANK, Bradford Bulls' long-serving star, will anxiously await the outcome of today's disciplinary hearing after being sent off for a high tackle against Sheffield Eagles last Friday. Anything more than a two-match suspension would rule the 32-year-old Fairbank out of the Challenge Cup final against St Helens at Wembley on April 27. Fairbank, who has made 16 appearances for Great Britain, is the last of five brothers still playing the game. He joined Bradford from the Elland amateur club in 1986. Dick, the eldest, played for Halifax in the 1988 Challenge Cup final against Wigan. The Bulls have other problems as they prepare for Sunday's cup final rehearsal at St Helens. Glen Tomlinson, Matt Calland and Bernard Dwyer are doubtful, and Jeremy Donougher, the Australian forward who collapsed unconscious after the Sheffield game, is out with a neck injury. Graeme Hallas, the Halifax back, has been cited by the

Rugby Football League and will appear before the disciplinary committee for a challenge on Oldham's winger Rob Myler last Friday. Myler could be absent for six weeks after undergoing an operation for a badly broken nose. "Fortunately," said Jim Quinn, Oldham's chairman, "he has not sustained the fractured cheekbone that was suspected." Quinn claimed that the tackle was "appalling" and that Myler was "not these high tackles doing serious damage." Martin Dermott, the 29-year-old Wigan and Great Britain booker, looks likely to leave a clutch of clubs — including Perth Western Reds, Cronulla and Warrington — disappointed by pledging his future to Wigan. South Wales are being linked with the Warrington and Wales forward Mark Jones. "If South Wales make a realistic offer it will be considered," said Alex Murphy, Warrington's football director. But Jones will not be allowed to move on loan. "We have already loaned them Andy Currier," said Murphy. "We are not a charity."

## Hockey

### GB trip may be in vain

Pat Rowley in Atlanta

**T**HE men's Great Britain squad arrived here late on Tuesday for a pre-Olympic tournament to find that the event may not take place. Not only is the Games main hockey venue at the Morehead Brown College unavailable, but the second pitch at Clark Atlanta University has still not been re-laid. The managers of the six competing teams, led by Britain's David Whittle, were in discussions all day yesterday with tournament officials. This chaotic situation is the result of a conflict of interests between the Olympic organising committee (AOCG), the tournament organisers, the US Field Hockey Association and university authorities. It has been further complicated by incessant rain that has delayed work on the Clark pitch, which is having to be re-laid because it was deemed unsafe after an AOCG-sponsored women's international event last August. Yesterday, after a proposal to move the event to San Diego was rejected, teams were practising on the Clark warm-up field to see if it could be used to stage the tournament.

## Sport in brief

### Badminton

Anne Gibson, who recently became the first Scot to qualify for an Olympic Games, yesterday became the first to gain a women's singles seeding at the European Championships, writes Richard Jago. The 29-year-old slips in as a replacement at No. 8 in the Europeans in Herning with the withdrawal of the title holder Lim Xiao Qing.

### Sailing

A Russian entry for the 1997-98 Whitbread Round the World race was announced at the Moscow Boat Show, writes Bob Fisher. Russia 300 will be skippered by Eugene Platon, who has competed in two previous Whitbreads.

### Basketball

Another NBA player has struck a referee, Nick Van Exel, the Los Angeles Lakers guard, blew up after being ejected late in a 98-91 loss to the Denver Nuggets and sent Ron Garretson crashing on to the scorer's table with a forearm shove.

### Cycling

Wilfried Nelissen is likely to miss the rest of the season after breaking a leg in a fall during yesterday's Ghent-Wevelgem race won by another Belgian, Tom Steels. He outspun a pack headed by Italy's Giovanni Lombardi and Fabio Baldato.

### Davis Love III.

## His 1st win at the Vth attempt: XVI/I.

**TO WIN THE US MASTERS**

Augusta Starts today. Live coverage on BBC

11/1 F. Couples	33/1 J. Daly
14/1 C. Montgomerie	33/1 J. Hlas
14/1 G. Norman	33/1 S. Hoch
16/1 E. Els	33/1 Janzen
16/1 D. Love III	33/1 B. Langer
16/1 O. Pavin	33/1 M. O'Meara
16/1 N. Price	33/1 L. Roberts
18/1 N. Faldo	33/1 V. Singh
20/1 S. Elkington	40/1 M. Calcavecchia
20/1 T. Lehman	40/1 D. Frost
20/1 P. Mickelson	40/1 J. Furyk
20/1 I. Woosnam	40/1 P. Stewart

EV one-quarter the odds a place 1.2, 3, 4. Other prices on request. Non-starter - no bet.

**FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME**

'95 US Masters Again	'95 US Open 1,2	'95 Open Revisited
B. Craven (150/1)	C. Pavin (16/1)	J. Daly (33/1)
D. Love III (16/1)	G. Norman (14/1)	C. Rocca (150/1)

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Whittington... double take

# Soccer Whittington given drug ban

**John Duncan**  
**C**RAIG Whittington's future as a player with Huddersfield Town still hangs in the balance after being found guilty of misconduct yesterday by the Football Association for twice using cannabis.

The 25-year-old striker was found to have taken the drug when caught on two separate occasions in 10 months by the FA's doping unit. Whittington has been suspended by the Yorkshire club since failing the second test on January 9 and yesterday an FA commission banned him from taking part in any footballing activity until November 1.

The former Crawley and Scarborough player left FA headquarters without comment, although he is understood to have told the hearing that he had not knowingly taken the drug on either occasion. The first time he believed he may have eaten cakes laced with cannabis at a party and claimed to have taken the drug unwittingly in January when smoking strangers' cigarettes at a New Year's Eve party.

But the scientific evidence given by Dr David Cowan, director of the world-renowned Drugs Control Centre at King's College, Chelsea, stated that the drug was most likely taken about 24 hours before the January 9 test.

The Huddersfield secretary Alan Sykes said the club would issue a detailed statement today. "Huddersfield have always taken a very serious view of this matter," he said. Whittington, who has made only one first-team appearance since his £20,000 transfer from Scarborough two years ago, offered a plea of mitigation. But as with Roger Stanislaus, who was banned for a year earlier this season and then dismissed by Orient for using cocaine, the case involved an important precedent. The first case of a player testing positive twice left the commission with little alternative but to make an example of the player.

# Gould to give youth its head

Martin Thorpe

**I**N ORDER to check on his younger players before Wales's World Cup qualifiers begin against San Marino on June 2, Bobby Gould has announced an experimental squad lacking four of his most experienced players for the friendly game in Switzerland.

Missing from the squad to play in Lugano on April 24 are Neville Southall, Ryan Giggs, Mark Hughes and Ian Rush. Southall, however, will travel with the party in his capacity as coach. "We are approaching a very important time for Wales," said Gould. "There are times when you have to experiment and this is our last chance before the World Cup."

Back into the squad comes Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones after a four-match international suspension, while there are first call-ups for the Watford defender Robert Page and the Birmingham midfielder Andrew Johnson.

# Silver quits as chairman of Leeds

**L**ESLIE SILVER, the chairman of Leeds United, retired on medical grounds yesterday, leaving the managing director Bill Fotherby to become acting chairman.

Silver's decision follows poor results and unrest among supporters, but the former head of a paint manufacturing group said, "I have been advised by medical experts to slow down."

Silver, who is 71 and joined the board in April 1981, will keep his majority shareholding in the club for the time being and the change is unlikely to influence the manager Howard Wilkinson's immediate future.

The Coventry defender David Buss must wait until next week for surgery to repair his right leg, badly fractured in Monday's defeat at Manchester United.

Liverpool's Steve Harkness insisted yesterday that he bears no grudge against Coventry's John Salako for the challenge in which he too broke a leg.



Lion rampant... Bobby Bowry gets behind the Birmingham defence to shoot Millwall into the lead at the New Den last night. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

# First Division: Millwall 2, Birmingham City 0 Bowry boys leave Birmingham bereft

**Martin Thorpe**  
**T**HIS was no classic but it served Millwall's purpose by taking them three points further away from relegation. Birmingham will now have to work hard to make the play-offs after three wins in a row had raised their hopes.

The game was staged against an ugly backdrop of pre-match speculation about crowd trouble following death threats received by Birmingham personnel. This followed last November's notorious game between the two sides when the Millwall team bus was attacked and visiting supporters had objects hurled at them by City fans.

Not surprisingly the Birmingham managing director, incensed Millwall by blaming their fans for the trouble, an allegation refuted by an FA inquiry which threatened St Andrews with closure.

It was an early tonic for Millwall's followers who have seen their team plummet from top spot in December to the relegation fringes thanks largely to

Granger to head in. Having failed to stir his side with words, Fry resorted to Plan B: the multiple substitution. Off went Hunt and the recent signings Peschillo and Devlin and on came Legg, Francis and Frazer.

# Scottish Premier Division: Heart of Midlothian 2, Rangers 0 Rangers slump

**Patrick Glenn**  
**R**ANGERS' defeat at Tynecastle last night saw their lead cut to four points with Celtic drawing at home to Kilmarnock, and it would have boosted Hearts' confidence for next month's Hampden Park showdown against the champions in the Scottish Cup final.

While Neil Poynton and Allan Johnston saw Hearts, impressive 3-0 winners at Ibrox in January, to victory over Rangers, Pierre van Hooydonk rescued Celtic from defeat at Parkhead with a late equaliser after Jim McIntyre had put Kilmarnock ahead on the stroke of half-time.

Poynton's goal was all the more stunning because Rangers had just been beaten by an impressive defence of defence from Ritchie.

Stevens, starting a match for the first time since last August, released Landrup on the left with a magnificent pass. The Dane then crossed towards McColl inside the six-yard box, but Ritchie, alert and quick, intercepted to concede a corner.

Just afterwards at the other end Mackay's pass was dummied by Cameron, making his Hearts debut after signing from Raith Rovers, to Poynton and the Englishman sent a left-foot chip high to Goram's left from 30 yards.

# Results

Table with columns for League, Division, and Results. Includes sections for English League, Scottish League, and various cup competitions.

# Rugby Union

**League One: Gloucester 16, Bath 10**  
**Robert Armstrong**  
**G**LOUCESTER threw the Championship race wide open with a superbly orchestrated victory over Bath that brought obvious joy to the small band of Leicester supporters in the Kingsholm crowd last night.

# Rugby Union

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# Rugby Union

## League One: Gloucester 16, Bath 10

# Smith kicks legs from under Bath

**Robert Armstrong**  
**G**LOUCESTER threw the Championship race wide open with a superbly orchestrated victory over Bath that brought obvious joy to the small band of Leicester supporters in the Kingsholm crowd last night.

Accurate goal-kicking by the full-back Tim Smith, who landed three penalties and converted Paul Holford's try, set the seal on a Gloucester triumph that does much to ease their fears of relegation.

Bath, who paid dearly for missing four penalties, remain two points ahead of Leicester at the top of the table with one game more played. The leaders' superior scoring difference also gives them useful insurance, but their remaining league games at Saracens and Orrell and at home to Sale now take on greatly enhanced significance.

Leicester, who have four games left, can, like Bath, still contemplate the prospect of a league and cup double.

Bath knew they were in for a torrid evening after just four minutes when Gloucester took the lead with a brilliant try by Paul Holford.

Whatever Bath's director of rugby Jon Hall said to his players during the interval, there was no obvious improvement in their second-half tactical pattern. Shortly after the break Butland's fourth penalty miss in five attempts did nothing to improve Bath's self-belief or dent Gloucester's burgeoning morale.

To make matters worse, Ben Clarke, Bath's main source of try-scoring in the row, had to go off 15 minutes from time with a left knee injury.

Smith kicked a second penalty from nearly 40 metres to his right corner. Holford, even though De Glanville scored a converted try in the 68th minute, Gloucester were not to be denied. Smith's third penalty goal eight minutes from time merely served to underline a famous victory.

**Second Division: Gloucester 17, Hull 10**  
**Concession: T Smith, Penalties: T Smith, B. T. De Glanville, Conversion: Butland, Penalties: Butland, Gloucester 17, Hull 10**

**Gloucester 17, Hull 10**  
Concession: T Smith, Penalties: T Smith, B. T. De Glanville, Conversion: Butland, Penalties: Butland, Gloucester 17, Hull 10

# Richmond enter the market-place

## Ian Malin on the latest club trying to buy their pitch among the elite

**T**HE day after the Rugby Football Union ordered its leading clubs to fall into line, cheque books opened again yesterday. Richmond, the faded aristocrats of League Three, signed the former Wales half-back Adrian Davies and Andrew Moore.

England's top clubs meet today to respond to the RFU's plans. But Sir John Hall, Newcastle's millionaire benefactor, last night responded angrily to the RFU's claims that the game must change. "I would like Richmond to play a role in that resolution. I had a conversation with Sir John Hall and he hopes that Richmond can be part of negotiations. We support the RFU, but accept that the game must change."

# Lions to visit SA township

**T**HE Lions' 13-match tour of South Africa in 1997, their first to the Republic since the ending of apartheid, will kick-off in a township when they play an Eastern Province Invitational XV in Korsten near Port Elizabeth on May 24.

They have not visited South Africa since 1980 and the itinerary follows the pattern of recent Lions' tours to Australia and New Zealand, with the three Tests being crammed into the final few weeks.

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FOOTBALL COMES HOME

Allan Lamb's dream ticket, page 13

Mastering the Masters, page 14

Player faces sack over drugs, page 15

Shoot-out in the West, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## WOMAN ACCUSES WORLD CHAMPION OF ATTACK IN NIGHTCLUB



Tyson's women: clockwise, with Robin Givens (ex-wife), Desiree Washington (rape victim) and Monica Turner



Kevin Mitchell on the life and loves of the Brownsville boy who discovered Islam while in jail for rape but now finds trouble following him around while out on parole



# Tyson back in a corner

**T**ROUBLE continues to follow Mike Tyson around. The world heavyweight champion has been accused again of sexual assault, this time in a Chicago nightclub only hours after he had attended a Muslim prayer meeting.

His fighting career — revived by a stunning victory over Frank Bruno last month — and his liberty will be determined in the next day or so as police investigate the complaint, the details of which remained vague last night, giving rise to suspicions among his closest associates that the millionaire boxer might have been set up.

introduced to Tyson, who arrived with a small entourage about 1am and stayed for two hours, or was approached by the fighter.

test said: "We are going to pursue the criminal avenue and also a civil case. She's scared, upset, angry, hurt."

chancers and has a retinue of loud and vulgar hangers-on, an aggressive coterie that intimidated Bruno when he

parking attendant who intervened when the fighter tried to kiss a female employee; his first wife, Robin Givens, catalogued a series of violent attacks; he was later sued by Phyllis Polaner, who claimed sexual assault and harassment; a jury also found Tyson committed battery in a case brought by Sandra Miller.

Every hall park guards its idiosyncrasies jealously. Fenway Park has the "Green Monster", a great wall across the left outfield that taunts sluggers into swinging for a memorable homer.

Every hall park guards its idiosyncrasies jealously. Fenway Park has the "Green Monster", a great wall across the left outfield that taunts sluggers into swinging for a memorable homer.

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## Short 'N' Sweet hearing sees two racehorse owners warned off after flapping offences

**Ron Cox**

TWO racehorse owners were warned off for 10 years by the Jockey Club yesterday after an inquiry into the betting coup pulled off by the "flapper" Pretty Average at Thirkst last July.

rules by the name of Bluefaulds in 1995.

Hamilton denied knowledge of Short 'N' Sweet or that Pretty Average had been flapping when the facts came to light last August. However, the horses had been entered to run in flapping races at Newcastle, an unlicensed track in the Scottish Borders, this weekend. This is thought to have brought the hearing to a speedier conclusion.

There is no question of the law being broken and involvement with flappers usually means disqualification from ownership of 12 months.

But David Pipe, the Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The stewards of the disciplinary committee viewed this as an extremely serious offence as the public, bookmakers, the Jockey Club and the handicapper had all been deliberately deceived for financial gain."

## Guardian Crossword No 20,624

Set by Custos

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Across**
- Being sacked, presented with the slice of mutton? (7,3,4)
  - Surpasses one, or gets higher still (8)
  - Girl directing wrath towards loveless one (5)
  - Human bone found in Troy? (5)
  - Distressed men hustle to get a topi (3-6)
  - Ruling oppressively, by reforming with a girl in charge (6)
  - Mum enthusiastic about a foreign religion (6)
  - Stores a king kept in coal-scuttles (6)
  - Scene of great victory, leading to Roman hat waving (8)
  - Abandoning waste, I'll get ahead (8)
  - Eastern garments revealed by titled person when retiring (5)
  - Type of salmon eaten by leaner kangaroos (5)
  - Denationalise, having one tax in force (8)
  - Had a wide range of interests, and sported by the meadow (6,3,5)
- Down**
- Takes cover and investigates thrashing (4,4,6)
  - 'Ard-working journalist, involved in a row, gets stickler (7)
  - I shall 'ouse Edwin, being unfortunate (3-6)
  - Obtains help? That's denied (8)
  - Call on phone, taking on (6)
  - Strike the man entering church (5)

**Be prepared for the first hype of spring. Jeffrey Archer has a new book out. In an exciting departure for the literary world, this latest book strays into new territory. It is a "novelography" — he has coined the term himself.**

Joanna Coles

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## Final home run for Yankees' field of dreams



Ian Katz

**A**SK ANY old timer at a New York Yankees home game and he will point out the spot up in the right-field bleachers where Babe Ruth hit a home run in the stadium's inaugural game, or trace the trajectory of the Mickey Mantle bullet that on May 22 1963 came closer than any ball before or since to leaving the fabled ballpark.

65-year-old arena where they had just racked up three consecutive NBA championships. They took the keyboard of the famous Barton Organ from "the Barn" to the gleamy United Centre (eight escalators, nine elevators, 50 restrooms) across the street, but not much else. A few months later the Boston Celtics played their last game on the parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

**S**INCE most football stadiums were built more recently, NFL team owners have had less tradition to defile but they have tried hard nevertheless. Last season, for instance, the San Francisco 49ers took to playing their home games at 3-COM Park instead of Candlestick Park. It's not that they moved anywhere; they just sold the name of the stadium.

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